

マギクラフト マイスター

3

秋ぎつね
Akigisune



Magi Craft Meister

Volume 3 - Port Town Port Rock

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Afterwords:

Chapter 1 – Port Town Port Rock

There was a small group of sub countries at the continent's southern peninsula. The peninsula was called the Elias peninsula. It is governed by a kingdom of the same name, the Elias Kingdom, and had active shipping routes as well as fisheries and salt production.

It is only connected to the mainland by a narrow strip of land. Its interaction with other countries is small and this has caused a unique culture to form.

「I see, it sure is warm here.」

Jin breathed the sea breeze into his lungs.

Right now, Reiko was guiding Jin around the Port Town Port Rock, the entryway to the east of the Elias Kingdom.

「I was sent to this coast on my 15th malfunctioned teleportation. Since there was a marine cave, I have installed a Warp Gate there, it is concealed by being camouflaged with the rocks.」

「You sure have had it hard too.」

Jin said to Reiko with appreciation.

「No, this was a matter of course.」

Reiko answered happily.

「Is torr the same currency used here?」

「Yes. It is common in most of the sub countries.」

Jin had a bit of money from selling Magi Tools and Magi Stones.

「Well then, let's find some cheap accommodation to settle down at.」

Many tourists come to the south for the winter resorts as it was surrounded by the sea. Because of this, there was of course a large number of accommodations.

「About 200 torr for a night would be a good inn, but is there a kind of place like the information office around here?」

「Shall I go ask?」

Reiko said,

「I guess so. How about asking the stall selling grilled skewers over there? Buy a grilled skewer for me while you're at it please.」

「Okay, I understand」

Reiko nodded and went over to the stall, buying a grilled skewer, talked to the shopkeeper about something, then gave a nod and came back.

「Father, here you go.」

「Oh, it smells good.」

It was similar to grilled squid and has been seasoned with something like a fish sauce.

「Mmm, tasty.」

While eating the skewer, Jin listened to Reiko's report.

「Anyway, there isn't anything like an information office around. However, the shopkeeper recommended to go to an inn to ask.」

「I see, that sounds good. So, where is it?」

「Yes. Go straight along the main street, turn left at the corner of the tool shop, then it will be at the end of the road.」

So they headed towards there.

First they walked along the main street. Both sides were lined up with stone buildings. Probably because of the sea breeze.

「As I thought, the culture should be about the Middle Ages.」

Reiko responded to Jin's monologue.

「I do not know the Middle Ages very well, but I get the impression it was like Mother's era.」

「Yep, it might be due to the 『Great Magic War』. Because the civilisation was destroyed once, the mages of the civilisation rapidly decreased.」

Talking about that while they walked, they were in front of the tool shop.

「To the left of the corner of the tool shop,,」

「Is it that place?」

At the end of the road there was an old but firm stone building. A small sign, 『Sea Pavilion』 was hung.

「It seems to be here.」

The two of them went in.

「Hello~」

「Hey there, are you staying the night?」

They were greeted at the counter by a stout and friendly landlady.

「Umm, we heard about this place from the grilled skewer stall, we would like an accommodation please」

「Referred by Paul? Well it's 200 torr a person per night, but I'll take 300 for the two of you because of that little miss there.」

「Then for now, we'll stay for 3 nights please.」

Jin took out 900 torr from his wallet and paid.

「Yes, certainly. Then please write your names here... Jin and Reiko... This is the key for the room. It's at the end of the second floor. Meals are in the dining room and cost an extra fee.」

「Got it.」

The two of them headed to the room. The stairs were also made of stone, and probably because it's soft stone, the sound of footsteps doesn't reverberate.

「It seems like ōya stone.」

As a Magi Craft Meister, Jin was interested about the stone. On Hourai Island, ōya stone which was a tuff of pumice stone, can be mined. The stone was a building material that was fire resistant and easy to process.

「This seems to be the room.」

There was no room number on the door, 『Bonito』 was written instead.

「It's the name of a fish.」

He said to Reiko. Then looking at the doors of the other rooms, they had the names 『Sardine』, 『Barracuda』 and 『Carp』 written on them.

「What kind of fish is the Bonito?」

「I wonder?」

It seems like Reiko doesn't know much about fish too.

For now they entered the room. There are two beds and a single small table. There's also two stools.

It even seems to have a designated baggage shelf on the wall. The toilet was at the opposite end of the corridor.

Looking outside from a small window, there was the seaside. The『Sea Pavilion』seems to have been built facing the sea.

Rather than baggage, there was only a single bag containing a change of clothes and things like underwear. If he felt like it, he could return to Hourai Island. However, thinking about the people and exchanging things in this town, they rented a room in the in.

There was no bath, only something similar to a shower. It didn't seem like he could enter a bath on Hourai Island, so Jin gave up,

「Now then, let's go look around the town again.」

「Yes father.」

So they both went outside, leaving the room key with the landlady.

「Father, where do you want to go first?」

「Let's see, I want to see the ships so let's go to the harbour.」

So the first destination was the sea.

Behind the 『Sea Pavilion』there was a sea cove. The open beach there was scattered with swimmers.

Looking for the harbour left and right, a large number of ships about

300 metres in size could be seen to the right side.

「The harbour seems to be over there.」

If you walked along the coast, you would soon reach the harbour. There were ships of various sizes rocking gently with the waves. With the fishy smell, many of the boats are probably used for fishing.

「Uh huh, as I thought, the hull is mostly made out of wood. Metal seems to only be used to reinforce it.」

Jin immediately started observing.

「Father, this ship is interesting.」

Hearing Reiko's voice, certainly, there was an interesting ship floating when he gave a look.

「A catamaran.」

The shape certainly looked like the catamarans from modern Earth. Its total length was around 4 metres.

「It's a ship that has both high speed capabilities and stability. But what could it be used for here?」

While Jin was talking to himself, a voice came from behind.

「Ohh, so you can tell with a look. Are you also a shipwright?」

Turning around, there was a girl that looked a few years older than Jin.

She had a good style with the places that should stick out sticking out and the places that should be slim are slim. Her short, blond hair gave an energetic impression. With blue eyes that makes you think of the sea and tanned skin, she looked like a healthy person.

「No, I'm a Magi Craft Meis...Magi Craftsman.」

Jin almost called himself Meister again. However, the woman's eyes shined upon hearing Magi Craftsman,

「A Magi Craftsman! Hey, what place are you affiliated with?」

She asked to which Jin replied,

「No, I'm not really affiliated」

The girl then had an even more delighted smile,

「Are you a freelancer? That's just perfect. You, what's your name? I'm Marcia.」

「I'm Jin. And this child is Reiko.」

「Jin and Reiko, nice to meet you. So, this may be a bit sudden, but I want to talk about something so could you come this way.」

Marcia said, inviting them to a coffee shop at the harbour. There weren't many other customers in the store named Cabin, and so the three of them chose to sit in the innermost seats.

Chapter 2 – Golem Boat Race

「This is a cheap and tasty shop.」

Jin once again observed Marcia who began to speak.

Even if it can be said that her appearance was that of a beautiful woman, her face was free of makeup and her hands and feet are also tanned light brown. Because of her work as a shipwright, the gaps between her nails have turned black.

If that's the case, shipwrights don't process their materials with magic, it seems to be an occupation of constructing with their hands.

Wearing a normal top and bottom of linen, she hung an apron from her neck to avoid getting it dirty.

「Well... where should I start from?」

Jin and the others sat around a table while drinking Kwue, the local specialty. By the way, Reiko was also drinking to pretend to be a human. Although Reiko doesn't need to eat or drink, she was capable of doing so. You can say she doesn't need to eat or drink, but was able to eat and drink.

Jin took a sip of it and felt that it tasted closer to cocoa even though its name was like coffee. He thought about going to buy it later.

Marcia also took a sip of the Kwue,

「This country, the Elias kingdom, is a country that develops ships.」

She started out in a manly tone. Jin also,

「Yeah, that I understand.」

「And so, annually, or rather every single year, a competition is held for the various ships」

「Ooh」

So there does seem to be something like a race. It's an effective way to improve technology.

「So, five days from now, there will be a competition for high speed boats.」

「Sounds interesting.」

Jin responded carefreely,

「It does sound interesting, right?」

Marcia said leaning forwards. And,

「Therefore let's participate together! If there's a problem with money, I'll cover for it as much as I can.」

「H-Hold on!」

Jin stopped Marchia's excitement.

「The story just took a huge leap. There's a competition for high speed boats, please explain from around there.」

Marcia sat back down and drank the remaining Kwue in her cup,

「My bad, sorry. The competition for high speed boats has several restrictions or rather requirements」

「Okay」

「The size, that's the length and width, the crew number, well I'll leave that aside, and a golem to move, those are the requirements.」

「A golem?」

「Yes. Going in a bit more detail, the operator is a human, while the golem propels the boat.」

「Ah, I see」

He gradually came to understand it. In other words, it was a race of ships powered by a golem.

「So, I want you, Jin, a Magi Craftsman, to make a golem! Please, help me!」

Jin calmed Marcia who was excited again,

「I understand what you're talking about. So, what are the merits..... the benefit of entering this competition?」

「Of course, it's honour! For a shipwright, coming in first is great honour isn't it? ? Well I can get the prize money too though」

Jin understood her feelings. If you make a model that moves, you would want to compete against others.

「So, why me?」

This was an essential point. Why was she so fixated on Jin when it was just their first meeting?

「There are rarely any freelance Magi Craftsmen. And above all, your response when you saw the ship I made.」

「Oh, the catamaran.」

「Yes, that! You called it a 『catamaran』? Then there are also other ships of such form right?」

「I-I guess」

He can't say about other worlds though.

「In other words, Jin is a freelancer, and also a Magi Craftsman knowledgeable on ships. That's why I wish to cooperate with you.」

After hesitating a little, Marcia continued,

「... My family have been shipwrights for generations, but after Father got engrossed in gambling, we lost the shop. On top of that, what women make here are often disregarded. However I want to get the shop running again...」

Hesitating for a bit, Marcia then continued her speech once again.

「... honestly, we have nothing left. If we don't make a name for ourselves in this competition, Father's shop will completely fall into the hands of someone else.」

Jin didn't intend to hear about the circumstances for it that deeply.

「I see. But why do you put your trust in me on our first meeting?」

「It may not look like it, but I've been through a lot of hardship. If we talk a little after we meet, I can roughly get an understanding of the other party. Jin, I can trust you.」

Jin gave a wry smile,

「I can't possibly refuse if you're going that far.」

Reiko next to him was as expected, expressionless.

Because Jin agreed, Marcia,

「That's the spirit! Alright, it's decided. Until the day of the competition, Jin and I will form a team. Jin, where are you staying?」

「It's a place called 『Sea Pavilion』」

「Oh, I'm also staying there. What a coincidence. I'm in the 『Heron』 room on the third floor.」

「We're in 『Bonito』 on the second floor.」

「We're in the same inn so it's also easier to meet. Then I'll tell the rest of the story there」

「Sure.」

From there, it was decided that they would continue the rest in the 『Sea Pavilion』.

They decided to have our talk while eating lunch in the 『Sea Pavillion』 dining room. The menu was focused around fish, one of Jin's favourite foods.

「Now regarding the reward, do you have any requests?」

She said and after Jin pondered,

「How much is half of the prize money?」

Marcia was speechless from what he said. Her face also stiffened.

「I did say I would cover what I can... but Jin, are you unexpectedly greedy?」

「Huh? Why do you say that?」

「I mean, the prize money is 1 million torr you know?」

That's about 10 million yen.

Irresponsibly saying half of the prize money, that much seemed to be the last thing she would think to hand over. So he quickly deceived her.

「No, that's when you win. When you don't win, it's different.」

「Ohh? You seem confident.」

「Of course, naturally I should aim to win, right?」

Jin said while laughing so the worry in his heart wasn't noticed, then Marcia laughed too,

「Yeah, sounds good! Aim for victory! If we win, I'll gladly hand over half! ... So, what is the actual request?」

「Well, could you take a look at my work?」

「Is that fine?」

「Of course. It's not like I'm troubled with making a living right now」

He said, then Marcia with an expression of relief,

「Hmmm, you're a weird one, Jin. But if that's fine then I'll do it」

With that, the discussion of the contract ended and they agreed to write it up later. While looking at Reiko, Marcia said

「By the way, Reiko-chan is really quiet.」

Marcia began to talk about this.

「No, if Fa... Onii-sama is having fun then I'm fine」

The setting of being siblings was still in effect in public for the time being.

「Hmm, , you're a good little sister. However, if the discussion isn't fun, why not go out somewhere to play?」

「No, there's no need to mind.」

To Marcia who still wanted to say something, Jin,

「We'll listen to the discussion together as Reiko is more or less my assistant」

He said. Marcia surprised,

「Ohh, so that's how it is. It's rare to see Magi Craftsman siblings. Well it's fine if that's how it is. Shall I continue?」

Saying that, she began to explain about the competition.

「The total length must be within 4 metres, the width should also be within 4 metres. Well, normally the wider the ship the slower, but...」

「For the catamaran, it won't slow down even if it's wider. It's also fairly stable.」

「That's how it is. Also, the crew is limited to a ship operator and golem. The ship operator is limited to women. Well, I'll be the one operating it and the golem will be propelling the boat.」

Then Jin interrupted with a question.

「Hold on a moment, how does the golem move the ship?」

「With an oar or paddle of course」

「Are other driving methods prohibited? 」

Marcia didn't seem to have realised the meaning of his question for a moment, but appeared to have realised it soon after,

「Is there some better method?」

「Yeah. However, it would be bad if it's against the regulations.」

But Marcia,

「It isn't. For example if we make the golem swim and pull the boat, that should be fine.」

Hearing that Jin,

「That's good. So, what are the regulations regarding the golem?」

「Oh, the height has to be within 2 metres. There's no restriction on weight. Naturally it would be a disadvantage if it was heavy.」

「And the materials?」

「There shouldn't be any restrictions.」

Hearing that, Jin immediately began to make a plan in his mind.

Chapter 3 – Figurine

「Jin, I'm sorry, but there's somewhere we have to go immediately.」

Marcia grabbed the pondering Jin's arm,

「We won't be able to participate if we don't register by the end of today.」

「I see, that would be bad. Alright, let's hurry.」

Jin couldn't help but to hurry also after hearing the deadline for registration.

Marcia, Jin, and Reiko ran down the street. Reaching the centre of the port city, there was large eye catching stone building.

「This is the town hall of Port Lock」

Marcia said as she opened the door and entered, followed by Jin and Reiko.

「Oh, if it isn't Marcia. I guess you found a Magi Craftsman?」

The person who called out appeared to be older than Marcia with grey eyes and brown hair. Dressed in pompous clothing and followed by two escorts, he was probably a noble.

「Yeah, I found one.」

When Marcia responded, the man let out a small click of his tongue. Ignoring that,

「We'd like to participate in the golem boat competition」

Marcia made an application at the reception desk.

「Sure, then please identify the members.」

When the reception clerk said so, Marcia beckoned Jin over.

「The shipwright is I, Marcia. The Magi Craftsman in charge of manufacturing the golem is him, Jin.」

「Understood, then is there any identification that he is a Magi Craftsman?」

Since that was said, Marcia asked Jin

「Jin, have you joined a Magi Craftsman Guild?」

「No, none at all」

When Jin answered as such, the clerk,

「Then you can show us something you've made, it's fine if you complete the challenged we've prepared too」

said. Hearing that, Reiko stepped forward.

「If so, then I'll.....」

Jin hurriedly pulled Reiko back,

「The challenge is?」

He somehow managed to ask. The clerk then,

「Be able to make something with the materials prepared here」

He said and pointed at the door to the next room. Jin,

「Oh, then let's do it immediately」

He said and headed to the room together with the clerk. On the way, he turned his head back,

「Marcia, Reiko, I'll be back in a bit.」

The door then closed. At that time, no one saw that the man who called out to Marcia had a dark smile appeared on his face.

* * *

In the room, there was another clerk,

「Then using this, please show me you can make something」

The clerk placed a lump of copper on the table and said to Jin.

「Understood. Now, what shall I make」

The lump of copper is smaller than a fist, he probably couldn't make much from it. A cup, or a dish, or a candlestick or.....

「Okay」

Having decided what to make, Jin immediately poured magic power into his hands.

「Hm?」

Doing so, he felt a slightly unpleasant feeling,

「《Forming》」

He invoked the magic without minding it.

* * *

「Marcia, you did sure well finding a freelance Magi Craftsman」

Meanwhile, the pompous man from before began to talk to Marcia in the Guild Hall.

「I was lucky.」

「However, you won't be qualified to participate in the competition if he isn't recognised by a Guild.」

「What is that supposed to mean?」

「It's as I said. What would you do if that guy is just a man who's just talk and not a Magi Craftsman?」

Saying that, Marcia was angered.

「Don't joke with me! Jin isn't that kind of guy!」

Forgetting to even use honorifics, Marcia yelled loudly. However the pompous man didn't care,

「Hmhhh, I wonder about that. You'll know soon」

While saying that, the door opened, Jin and the clerks came out.

「How was it?」

The pompous man asked.

「.....」

The clerk stood in silence and then placed down the object in his hand.

「!!」

「Oh?」

It was a bronze statue of about 10 cm in height. No, it should be called a doll.

「Sorry, Marcia. Since I couldn't come up with something, I made a figuri... a doll of you.」

When Jin was still in the orphanage, he had a part time job where he helped manufacture the prototype figurine moulding.

Jin was bad at making original designs, but he did better than others

if there was something to copy from. That skill was completely exhibited with Magi Craft.

「Well it's fine but, why in such a swimsuit!?!」

Marcia complained with her cheeks dyed red. It was dressed in a one-piece swimsuit.

「Well, that's because I didn't have time. There's no way I would leave it nude.」

「Still, why do you know my swimsuit appearance anyway!?!」

「No, this was with my imagination」

「As expected of Onii-sama.」

Marcia was still red, Jin answered indifferently. Reiko earnestly praised Jin.

「W-Well then, I recognise Jin-san is a Magi Craftsman.」

「I did it, Marcia.」

Thus Marcia paid the participation fee of 10,000 torr.

「Since a later date is fine, please also register a team name」

Receiving the participation medal, Marcia embraced it against her chest.

「Jin, thank you」

But Jin,

「You can thank me if we win.」

He boldly laughed.

* * *

Off to the side, the pompous man pulled the clerk over to the shadows,

「Oi, what was that?!」

「W-Well, as you said, I made him work at the table! But that guy had made that bronze statue in no time. The guy in charge of the test also saw it, he couldn't have cheated.」

「That was the table with the built-in magic circle of magic invocation disturbance right? It wasn't changed with a different table was it?」

「That is impossible. Since I properly confirmed the mark.」

「Damn, did I get a defective product?」

The noble man seemed mortified, however thinking back, a disgusting laugh appeared,

「Well it's fine, I still have a hand to play.」

* * *

Bonus.

The mayor of Port Rock who was the competition committee chairman was looking at the Marcia figurine Jin had made. Then a brief remark.

「Yeah, I'll go with this as the official swimsuit for this year's competition!」

Chapter 4 – Rival

Jin and the others are having dinner at the Sea Pavillion, it wasn't much but they had a toast for the formation of the team.

「Well then, here's to celebrate the formation of team 『MJR』」

They raised and tapped each other's glasses. And,

「Let's aim for for victory!」

Incidentally MJR was made up of the initials of Marcia, Jin and Reiko. Of course, Jin had left the naming up to Marcia.

After a peaceful meal, they began the meeting. Then Jin remembered,

「By the way, that smug man from before, who was that guy?」

「.....」

Marcia seemed to have difficulty saying it. Jin sensing that,

「You don't have to force yourself to say it.」

He said, but Marcia had resolved herself,

「No, I don't want to keep secrets from a team mate.」

Saying that, she began to talk.

「That guy is a Marquis of this Elias Kingdom. Marquis Hudson's 3 men are the assistants of the ruler of Port Rock, Valentino I believe he is called, however..... he says he wants me to be a mistress without any hesitation」

「Huh?」

「He also has three other wives and two mistresses. That guy said he wanted to have the same number of wives and mistresses.」

「What a ridiculous guy.....」

Jin was disgusted of course.

「I don't know why he's taken an interest in me.」

She asserted. Marcia didn't seem to be lying as Jin thought she was beautiful enough herself. However he didn't say that,

「So is that guy also entering the competition?」

「He will. More so, he's the favourite to win. He can use his family's

power and money to employ a good shipwright and a skilled Magi Craftsman. There's also a rumour that he's invited a Magi Craftsman from the center of Magi Craft, Celuroa Kingdom.]

「It is impossible for Onii-sama to lose to such a man.」

Reiko who had stayed silent until then couldn't bear it any longer and interjected.

「Y-Yeah. I believe so too.」

「So, what are we going to do now?」

Somewhat forcibly, Jin attempted to change the subject.

「Right, a-anyway, we'll need to get the materials for Jin to make a golem. Cost is no concern is what I would like to say, but as you can see, please don't expect much.」

「It's fine, normal materials are enough.」

「Since I'll be helping with the fishing in the mornings until the day after tomorrow, we'll have to take care of getting the materials during the afternoon. Therefore you can do as you like during the mornings.」

「Helping with the fishing? Why?」

Hearing that, Marcia with a little embarrassment,

「It's a bit embarrassing, but even if it's just a little, I want to get used to riding a boat and while I'm at it, earn a little money.」

「Oh, I see. Then are you all right with having lunch in this dining room?」

Since Jin liked how delicious the meals were. On the side, Reiko diligently made note of Jin's tastes.

「Yeah, let's do that.」

Marcia nodded.

In addition to that, we heard that the the lord might come take a look at the competition and there will be a prize for design and idea besides just speed before we finished up that evening.

「Otou-sama is really whimsical. Are you helping others again?」

She was probably talking about what happened in Blue Land.

「Well, I guess so. But it's also because I'm curious about the race, it's seems like fun.」

「I'm fine with it if Otou-sama is too, but I'm worried you'll work your

body too hard.」

Since Jin was overworked by the boss and seniors of the company in his previous world, even though he was aware of it, it was his disposition and that can't be easily corrected.

「Yeah, I'll be careful.」

That was the best answer he could give right now.

「Now then, I want to take a shower to refresh myself.」

He was somehow sticky from the sea breeze blowing on him all day.

「I'll go wash my body.」

Jin said to Reiko and went to the communal bathroom with a change of clothes and a towel... But soon immediately came back.

「Otou-sama? What is it?」

「No way, no way. The water doesn't flow out, you have to draw it yourself with the bucket on the shelf, you can't bathe at all. Even worse, because the sea is nearby, the well water is also muddy.」

Jin once again recognized that water was precious. A pump was made at Kaina Village, but it doesn't seem to have spread to here yet.

「I'll go back to Hourai Island tomorrow and take a bath there.」

Jin who gave up on taking a bath and shower for the day, thought about various things and plans while lying on the inn's bed, but he soon fell asleep before he knew it.

The next day. Jin and Reiko had returned to the Laboratory using the Warp Gate to bring the materials.

Reiko carried a barrel of fish paste. They couldn't find any soy sauce so they got it for its similar flavour.

Getting out of the morning bath he had Reiko prepare, Jin immediately began preparing.

「Now then. Reiko, I believe there was the leather of a Sham Dragon.」

The wing membrane was used for Reiko's skin as it's thin and tough. Compared to it, the leather was thick and flexible.

「Yes. I secured the material on my 4th teleportation when I hunted it.」

Reiko casually handed the fish paste over to Peridot who was in charge of the housekeeping. 『Sham』 as it may be, it was still a monster with Dragon in its name. It would normally take at least 10 people to subjugate it.

「Good. I want a bit of it. Also a wind attribute magi crystal.」

「Wind attribute? Would that be better than the water attribute?」

It was a reasonable question, but Jin readily,

「It's because the golem I have in mind needs speed more than power.」

He said just that.

「I understand」

She answered obediently. Reiko then collected the things he had asked for.

「Good. Let's make the swimsuit now then.」

「Hah?」

To Reiko who had a confused expression, Jin,

「Well, wasn't there also a beach there? It's been a while since I last swam.」

「So that's why.」

The string of the Ground Spiders appeared once again.

「My predecessor sure was amazing to have made this knit & weave loom.」

「Yes, Okaa-sama is very great.」

The preceding Magi Craft Meister, Adrianna Balbora Ceci seemed to have been very womanly and had developed things of the likes of a spinning loom and a knit & weave loom.

Inside the knit & weave loom was what could be called meias-like fabric that could be used to weave.

「The thread I dyed navy blue is set, and... Okay, activate」

Activating it, the speed at which it weaved was much faster compared to machines on modern Earth. This time he was making a swimsuit, so he stopped once he weaved it to a modest length and took the fabric out.

「After this I'll also dye it white, so could you weave a bit more?」

「Yes..... Luna, Soleil, I leave this to you.」

Jin decided to leave the rest of the work to Reiko's two subordinates, he then began putting finishing touches to the swimuit.

「This goes like this, cut this, attach it here... Alright, it's complete. Reiko, this is yours.」

「Thank you.」

Jin had made a navy blue one piece swimsuit. He wanted to think that its resemblance to a school swimsuit was just his imagination. After that, Jin also made a swimsuit for himself.

「Alright, it's not yet noon so we still have time. Let's return to the 『Sea Pavillion』 and change.」

They returned to Port Rock and after changing into their swimsuit at the Sea Pavillion, both of them headed to the beach at the back.

「It's convenient that it's close.」

Jin immediately entered the sea. The seawater temperature was relatively high so he didn't feel too cold. Reiko then followed after

Reiko weighed about the same as a human so she was able to float by stretching out her body. For a while, both of them calmly floated in the inlet while bathing under the southern sun.

「Aaa~ it's really is relaxing.」

It was at the moment Jin spoke to himself.

「Oh? Could that young lady over there be a doll?」

Some person said.

「Wh-what? ... GABO—」

Trying to set his body upright in a panic, Jin accidentally swallowed some water.

「Otou-sama, are you okay?」

Reiko was worried about Jin. And the person who had called out to them,

「Ah, as I thought. This is wonderful! There isn't one in our country. Could it possibly be an Artifact?」

It was a man who looked about 3 or 4 years older than Jin. He was tall and thin with grey hair and grey eyes. His skin was white, though slightly tanned. He was probaby a swimmer as he was wearing a swimsuit.

Jin put himself on guard against this man.

「Why do you think that Reiko is a doll?」

The man with a slightly exaggerated shrug,

「Even though I look like this, I am a Magi Engineer of the Shouro

Empire. No, you call it a Magi Craftsman here. Oh, forgive my impoliteness, I am called Reinhardt.」

「..... Jin. This is Reiko.」

While still vigilant, Jin also named himself. Then Reinhardt,

「Mister Jin and Miss Reiko. Could it be you are also entering the Golem Boat Competition?」

He said with a smile.

「Yeah. Then does that mean you are too?」

Jin checked,

「I am indeed participating. My golem is this.」

When he said that, he introduced a golem that suddenly appeared next to him.

「The golem I poured my heart and soul into to make, 『Lorelei』.」

It had the lower body of a fish, that is to say it was a mermaid model golem.

Chapter 5 – Obstruction?

Jin looked at the golem called Lorelei and was impressed with the concept and materials used.

「Oooh, it's the first time I've seen demon beast leather used as a material for a golem.」

When Jin said that, Reinhardt's eyes opened wide.

「Amazing! You were able to tell the materials Lorelei was made of at a glance!」

「Using flexible material to allow flexible movement, it makes sense.」

Reinhardt grabbed Jin's hand,

「That's right! You really do understand! So, that Miss Reiko of yours... I guess there's no way she could be. Definitely not a golem.」

The main difference between automatas and golems was that automatas are usually made to imitate humans. That's one of the reasons they wear clothes.

Well if you were to think about it, you'd find the boundary rather vague. For now, you could say automatas try to imitate humans first and foremost while golems prioritise utility. However, this didn't apply to

Reiko.

That aside, having heard what Reinhardt said, Jin with a wry smile,

「Yep. I actually haven't made one yet.」

「Eh? Really?」

「Actually, I was only just invited yesterday and had only registered yesterday afternoon.」

Reinhardt was surprised,

「This is very serious. Including me, many of the other participants have already finished preparations and started their adjustments.」

However, Jin grinned,

「Well, just see.」

He said confidently.

「Right! Jin, you don't seem like an ordinary person. I'm looking forward to the day of the competition!」

Reinhardt said, then,

「Lorelei, lets go.」

He uttered as he got on the mermaid golem's back and,

「See you later Jin.」

They then swam away. As Jin saw them off,

「I see, as long as the golem can move itself, then it doesn't mean you have to ride on the boat.」

He muttered. Then he grinned,

「Well, they say motivation comes from having a rival.」

He said that phrase. Judging from the position of the sun, Jin knew it was nearly noon,

「Well then Reiko, let's go back as well.」

「Yes, Otou-sama」

Getting out from the sea, they returned to the Sea Pavilion.

* * *

「Well then, let's go procure some materials.」

After meeting up at the Sea Pavilion, Jin, Reiko and Marcia had lunch together before going out to town.

「What materials will you use for the golem?」

Marcia asked,

「Light Silver would be best, but if it's too excessive, bronze is also fine.」

He answered. Then Marcia replied,

「Yeah, Light Silver is too unreasonable with our budget. Sorry, but can we go with bronze?」

「Yeah, of course.」

Jin said and nodded. They then came to a place where rows of material warehouse stores were lined.

「It's here.」

「Welcome.」

The clerk welcomed,

「We'd like 50kg of bronze ingots for a golem. Also a Magi Stone.」

However,

「Ah, I'm sorry, we have bronze but we're out of our stock of Magi Stones.」

「What!?!」

Marcia raised her voice. Without a Magi Stone, a golem is only a doll. She knew that much as a shipwright.

「T-then when is the new stock scheduled to arrive?」

「The next stock is scheduled to come in one week.」

「Then we'll be too late for the competition! Fine, we'll go check another store.」

Marcia angrily said and,

「Ah, it's probably useless no matter where you go.」

The clerk stated.

「Why is that?」

Marcia asked the clerk,

「Yesterday night, someone bought up all the Magi Stones around here.」

「.....」

Marcia's face went ghastly pale. Like this, they wouldn't be able to complete the golem. They'll then have to withdraw from the competition.

Jin tapped Marcia's shoulder.

「Jin?」

「Marcia, we'll only buy the bronze then. If we need a Magi Stone, I have one.」

Because Jin had said that, Marcia nodded with relief,

「Then we'll only buy the bronze.」

She said, the clerk,

「Thanks for the patronage. That will be 30,000 Torr.」

With these words, Marcia was aghast.

「What!? Isn't that double the market price?」

「Yes. We've been short on stock recently.」

「But for it to be double...」

「How much can we get for 20,000 Torr?」

She tried asking,

「You can get a bit more than 30kg with that.」

Marcia was disappointed, however Jin,

「If there's 30kg, I can work with it.」

He had said.

「Really!?」

「Yeah. Please leave it to me.」

Looking at Jin's confidence, Marcia became a little relieved,

「Then we'll take 30kg please.」

Saying that, they paid 18,000 Torr. The clerk took out a lump of bronze with great effort, placing it in front of them.

「Can you carry it for us?」

Marcia had said, but the clerk,

「I'm currently busy, please carry it by yourself.」

He refused.

「What are you saying! There isn't even any other customers!」

However it was useless to talk as the clerk had withdrawn to the back. Marcia who was left behind,

「Seriously! What kind of shop is this!」

But Jin,

「Marcia, it's a waste of time. Let's go back.」

Saying that, he looked over to Reiko,

「Sorry Reiko, but please carry it.」

「Yes, Onii-sama.」

Reiko then easily lifted the 30kg of ingot.

「Wh-Wha.....」

Marcia's mouth went wide open having seen that. It was also the same for the clerk who was watching from the shadows.

Because they had seen a girl with a height of 130cm who only looked about 10 years old, easily lifting the metal that was around the same weight as herself.

「As I said, Reiko is my assistant.」

「There's no way I'd believe you with just that!」

While they were arguing, Reiko had walked off with the ingot.

Chapter 6 – Commence Production!

In the port, there are small rental docks which was where Marcia's workshop was. The catamaran was also stored there right now.

「Over here, this is my workshop.」

「Alright, Reiko, put it down over there please.」

「Okay.」

Reiko put down the ingot of bronze on the dock's floor.

「Now then, first we'll need refine this.」

Hearing Jin's mutter, Marcia,

「Eh? Jin, did you just say 『refine』?」

「Yeah. What about it?」

「No no no! Isn't what we just bought an ingot!?!」

However, Jin with a bitter smile,

「Yeah, but you know, there seem to be a lot of impurities in this. There seems to be Arsenic, Bismuth and Lead in it.」

「Eh? Eh? Eh? I don't really get it, but the material store knew about this and still sold it for a high price?」

「Unfortunately that is how it is.」

After Jin said this, Marcia's face was dyed with anger,

「Shit! That damn material store! I'm going to complain!」

However Jin stopped Marcia,

「Stop, stop. That's just a waste of time.」

However, Marcia's anger was not appeased. It was Reiko who called out to Marcia.

「Marcia-san, put that aside and take a look. You can see Oto... Onii-sama's exquisite skill.」

「Eh?」

Having that been said, Marcia gave Jin a look,

「《Smelting》」

The ingot flashed for a moment, and in the next moment, all the impurities that were in the ingot had scattered out into separate lumps

「Eh ? 」

「And that's done.」

「W-What did you just now?」

Marcia doubted her own eyes.

「Eh? I just separated the impurities.」

Jin said indifferently.

「Ev-even if you say that, how did you do it so easily!?!」

On the other hand, Marcia was agitated.

「How you say, because I'm a Magi Craftsman?」

「I have no idea why you made that a question but.. haa... Fine then. So, what's next?」

Gradually, Marcia was no longer able to be surprised by each and

every little thing Jin did.

「Shape the golem... 《Forming》《Forming》《Forming》」

Using the Craft Magic, Forming, in succession, he was able to construct the golem. Since he had already learnt how to build the body on Hourai Island, he was accustomed to it.

「W-w-wh-wha-wha...」

「Alright, this is done. Next is the Ether Converter, Mana Driver and Control Core.」

Jin took out 3 Magi Crystals from his pocket. Marcia jaw almost fell when she saw that.

Since Magi Crystals were not less than 10 times more expensive than Magi Stones.

「How can you casually take something like that out of your pocket?!」

Reiko tapped on Marcia's back,

「Since it's Oto... Onii-sama」

Marcia, who almost fell from depression, suddenly recovered,

「That's right, it's not like it's a bad thing. Rather, I have to thank fate for introducing Jin to me!」

Unexpectedly, Marcia quickly recovered. In the meantime, Jin with the help of Reiko was touching up the small details while proceeding with the work.

「Alright, it's mostly done with this. All that's left is...」

It was the first time Marcia had seen Jin's style of production, however,

「... Hey Jin, this golem is a female model right?」

「Hm? That's right. Now the 『finishing touches』, and」

「.....」

Marcia was at a loss for words when she looked at the design of the golem.

「And it's done..... Hm? What is it, Marcia?」

Jin asked Marcia who had her mouth wide open. Coming to her senses, Marcia,

「Hey Jin, if my eyes haven't gone bad, this golem is...」

「Yeah, I used Marcia as the model.」

「I thought so!」

Right, the golem that Jin had made was not just a female golem, it looked just like Marcia. Of course, the surface of the golem had a characteristic metallic lustre.

「A golem that looks like the ship operator sounds good doesn't it?」

「You know...」

Looking at the almost, or rather completely same body line, Marcia was amazed. How did Jin even know her own body shape.

Actually, it was thanks to the nearby Reiko's help. Since Reiko's eyes came with a see-through function. As Reiko was familiar with the body shape, she pointed out the finer details.

「So, um... Marcia, come over here for a bit.」

Crouched next to the golem, Jin beckoned Marcia over.

「Hm?」

Marcia crouched next to it as well and Jin,

「I need to transcribe your knowledge on ships to the golem, so please only think about the ship.」

「Haa?」

Marcia's surprise was still not exhausted. Usually, ordinary golems were taught knowledge over time after activating.

「Well then, here we go..... Transfer Info! Level 3.」

Recently he has been able to set the level of Transfer Info to as much as necessary, it had become much easier.

「Uwaa!?!」

Marcia was surprised by the magic power of Transfer Info going through her head. However Jin continued,

「《Master-Slave》. First is Marcia, second is me, third is Reiko.」

He defined chain of command.

「Alright, everything is done with this... Hm? What is it Marcia?」

Jin asked, having seen the exhausted Marcia. Marcia was partly amazed,

「... It's nothing. So, can this one move already?」

「Yeah. I'll activate it now. 《Rise》」

The golem then stood up.

「Marcia, go ahead and name it.」

Jin said and,

「Eh, ah, me?」

Marcia was in a panic, but after contemplating for a while,

「Then... let's call you Arrow.」

「Yes, I am Arrow.」

「Wha, i-it spoke!」

Marcia didn't know how much more she could be surprised.

Now that the golem was finished, Marcia took a good, long look at Arrow. As a result,

「As I thought, there wasn't enough bronze.」

「Eh?」

「Since all golems that row the boat would have a tough physique without exception. Wasn't that why you made Arrow a female model?」

Indeed. In order to row the oar and paddle, everyone made that type of golem, especially having the upper body be tougher. But Arrow had the same appearance as Marcia. If you compared the arms to a male model, it was significantly thinner.

With the power required from the golem, a female type would be at a disadvantage.

However Jin laughed,

「It's because this golem won't use its arms. Besides, a golem's power is not affected by its size.」

Jin said while he shortly glanced at Reiko.

「Ohh? Anyway, I understand that Jin is definitely not a normal Magi Craftsman.」

「Haha, that's good to hear.」

While saying that, Jin once again successively used Forming on the remaining bronze.

In an instant, turbine-like parts, wheel-like parts, and winding back-and-forth parts were made.

Chapter 7 – Launching Cygnus

「Hm? What are these?」

Marcia tilted her neck as the parts were not in the least like an oar. Jin,

「Well you'll see. Reiko, help me assemble this.」

「Yes.」

Jin asked Reiko to hold the heavy parts while he attached them on the catamaran. Before long, it was completed.

「It's done now! Let's test it and take a look at the balance.」

It was attached to the rear of the catamaran's central hull.

There was a turbine at the rear, and attached on the sides of the turbine were wheels. The wheels had a V groove in them and had a flexible belt attached.

The belt was connected to another wheel.

Another wheel had an L shaped rod protruding out from either side, slightly behind that was a seat and slightly in front of that was a handle.

You might already know it by now, but Jin had made a propulsion device that uses bicycle pedals to rotate the turbines. It was often a tourist attraction at ponds and lakes.

But having seen it for the first time, Marcia,

「How can this move forward?」

She was worried.

「Proof before theory, well try it out first.」

So, with the Golem Arrow's help, we moved the boat to the sea. And,

「Well then, since I'll be steering, Reiko, please do the pedalling.」

「Eh? Is that okay?」

Marcia was still worried, but Jin laughed,

「Yeah. Just leave it to me.」

「Oto.....Onii-sama, I'm ready.」

「Okay, let's go. We'll take it slowly first.」

「Okay.」

Reiko stepped on the pedals. The turbine started to rotate, scooping the water to the rear. The boat started proceeding ahead with the recoil.

「Ooh! It moved!」

The boat then exited the swimming area and gradually picked up speed.

「Yep, this is quite alright.」

「Otou-sama, do you want to go faster?」

「No, this much is fine. Reiko, how much is your Ether Converter outputting right now?」

「Yes, it's approximately 5%.」

「The efficiency is worse than I thought. Maybe we should change the shape of the turbine.」

Jin then sat in the cockpit and used 《Forming》. If there's physical contact he can still use it at a distance of 3 metres. However, the efficiency drops inversely proportional to the distance.

「Oh, looks like it's good this time.」

After fine tuning it several times, the speed had increased by about 30% compared to the first time.

「Alright, let's return for now.」

Jin did a U-turn and returned to the dock. Marcia greeted them with a joyful smile.

「Jin! That's was amazing! You're a genius!」

Not restraining any of her praise, Jin was a little shy while Reiko was proud.

「It'll be complete after adding one more thing.」

「It's still missing something?」

Marcia asked for what Jin meant.

「Yeah. Since the turbine will spray water everywhere, we'll want to attach a cover to defend against that.」

When the turbine rotates at high speeds, the centrifugal force would cause water to spray everywhere. Reiko and Jin's backs had also been soaked wet.

「This goes likes this. 《Forming》. Okay, it's done.」

「Then can I also give it a ride?」

Seeing Marcia who was itching to have a ride, Jin wryly smiled,

「Sure. But before that, the owner, Marcia, should give the boat a name.」

「Hm? R-right. Then... how about 『Cygnus』?」

「Sounds fine doesn't it? Well then, to match the name 『Cygnus』.....
《Surface Treatment》.」

「Huh? Aaah???」

The hull of the catamaran, which until now had a wooden colour, had now changed to a white, worthy of the name Cygnus.

「Wha-what did you just do!?!」

「I simply dyed it white.」

In short, bleaching. Although he had actually applied a water proof coating too. Next Jin,

「Arrow, come over here for a moment. Okay, 《Plating》」

He plated Arrow's surface using the nickel he got when separating the impurities from the bronze. And so Arrow became silvery grey and resistant to corrosion.

「A-amazing! Jin, is it okay already? It okay right?」

Seeing Marcia who seemed like she could no longer hold on and wanted to ride,

「Yeah. Be careful.」

「Great! I'll be going! I'm counting on you Arrow!」

「Yes, please leave it to me.」

「Launching 『Cygnus』!」

Because Marcia has the highest command priority, the cooperation between Marcia and Arrow was smooth at first. Then the boat abruptly started hopping.

There was a splash of water from the stern as it sailed across the water. Jin having seen that,

「Ah, as I thought, the efficiency of the water wheel still isn't good.」

He said to himself. Reiko having heard that,

「Otou-sama, are you still dissatisfied with it?」

Reiko had been given the knowledge of the previous Magi Craft Meister, Adrianna Balbora Ceci, however the propulsion device Jin made this time was not part of that knowledge.

「Yeah. The efficiency improves as it operates similarly to oars, but if it splashes that much...」

Right, it starts losing it's energy because of the splashing and waves. With Jin's knowledge from modern Earth, he wanted to make a screw propulsion system.

「However, there are a lot of problems with rotating the screw.」

Firstly, the rotation needs to be changed to 90 degrees to the pedal. The rotation speed also isn't enough. Unless the screw has a high rotation speed, the efficiency will be bad.

「It's because I still haven't made bevel gears yet...」

Up until now, Jin hasn't made gears. Since at least 2 or more gears must mesh together, precise accuracy is required.

With ball bearings, the weight, that is the parameters were manageable to make. But in the case of gears, the module, pitch, involute curve and

such were a bit out of his abilities right now.

「It can't be made without the help of a machine.」

Since he had worked at factories he had used lathes and milling machines and knew the rough structure of them, however, without time he couldn't reproduce them.

「Well, that's a task for back at the laboratory.」

After a while, the 『Cygnus』 returned kicking up the water.

「Welcome back.」

When Jin greeted Marcia on the pier, she who was full of excitement,

「Jin! This boat is amazing! I've never seen a boat as fast as this!」

「That's nice to hear. So, do you have any points that you're unsatisfied or worried about?」

When Jin asked,

「Ah, no, I have no complaints on the propulsion. If I had to say, it would be the hull. A little more manoeuvrability would be great.」

Even though the catamaran can move straight ahead well because it

has a long hull, it's difficult to manoeuvre with sharper turns.

「Right, but I don't think we need that manoeuvrability for the competition do we?」

「Well, that's true. It's simply out the harbour, turn and go around the island and return to the goal.」

However, Marcia had one more thing to add.

「It's not a bad thing to aim for a better hull though, right?」

To Marcia who laughed and said that,

「You're right. Since progress halts when you become satisfied.」

Jin also agreed.

It was nearing evening and the wind was also dying down. Jin and the others decided to call it a day.

Chapter 8 – Magi Jet Engine

The Cygnus was completed the next day.

The same day, Marcia went to her part-time fishing job while Jin went back to Hourai Island.

「Well, I wonder if my thinking is correct.」

Last night, an idea came to his head while he was in bed at the Sea Pavillion

「《Blower》」

Jin used basic wind magic. Normally it's a magic used to blow away rubbish. A strong wind was generated which ceased after around 5 seconds.

「Hmm, as I thought, there's no recoil.」

Jin noticed that there was no recoil with most magic. The commonly referred to “law of action and reaction” was valid even in a different world.

However, this did not apply with respect to magic. Jin was trying to analyze the reason why.

「So Reiko, when I signal, please use Blower.」

「Okay.」

Reiko was a super automata, in order to protect her master, attack magic of all attributes has been programmed to be used, including high level magic that her master cannot use.

「3, 2, 1, now!」

「Blower」

「Trace」

Strong winds swept from Reiko's hands, it was followed by flows of Jin's magic.

「This time use Strong Winds please. 3, 2, 1, now!」

「Wind」

「Inspection」

Now, Jin began to examine the workings of magic and magic energy.

After repeating this 3 times,

「I got it! It's as I thought!」

「Father?」

Seeing Jin jump to his feet was uncommon, Reiko was puzzled.

「Reiko, thank you. I finally found the reason only the target is blown away with wind magic.」

Jin then explained to Reiko.

「For example, the magic Blower, appears to have created wind from the palm, however, it actually fires by collecting air from the surroundings.」

Jin speculated this structure was because it was a relatively weak magic.

「When firing, although there is supposed to be recoil, the operator does not feel it. This is because magic cancelling the reaction is triggered at the same time.」

「Is that so?」

「Ah. There's no doubt. Air flow, magic energy flow and magic structure, it's all as a result of examining them.」

But, Jin let out his breath,

「From the operation of Blower and Wind, it's only good at cancelling part of the recoil.」

From Jin's extent of understanding, magic is the recorded procedure of invoking the (flow) in the world, it starts with the soul of language in the presence of chanting and continued by the imposition of mana.

In a magic item, a "Plate" is used to record and store the "World" procedure (flow) with the soul of language, magic is triggered when supplied with mana.

Storing a new procedure (flow) into the world is creating a new magic, it is said.

With that said, the memory isn't foolproof, differences appear between mages spells.

That aside, Jin continued talking.

「Because of that, you can do the same thing with a magic tool.」

「I was able to understand the story. But the magic tool you mentioned before, what is it useful for?」

With an impish smile, Jin said,

「We'll see」

Theng, bringing some Light Silver from the warehouse, he began to make something.

As expected of Jin, although it took some time to make something for the first time, it was completed soon.

「Done」

It was a cylindrical object 30cm long, 10cm in diameter.

「Father, this is?」

Then Jin opened the lid and put a tiny Magi Stone in the upper part of the cylinder, after that, he pushed it to the middle and closed the lid.And,

「Reiko, hold it firmly but be careful not to crush the cylinder.」

「? Okay.」

With that, Reiko held the tube,

「Start」

Jin started it. At that moment, wind started blowing from the cylinder in Reiko's hand,it pushed against Reiko with considerable force.

「Father, this is?」

「Oh, its a big success. It is a Magi Jet Engine.」

Jin's enginering naming was relatively decent.

「As it is, it will keep going until the Magi Stone runs out.」

It kept working for another 20 minutes.

「Un un, it's as I thought」

「What does it mean? Father」

Reiko asked as Jin nodded.

「Un、in the magic Wind、the part of the magic that prevents recoil that I talked about a little while ago consumed more than half the magic power.」

「In other words, if you stop the magic that prevents recoil, it would require much less magic.」

Jin happily nodded,

「Yes, yes, that's right. With this, the prospect of flying in the sky is in sight, it can also be used to make a high speed boat.」

With Jin's thoughts, the jet plane would probably come before the propeller plane.

「Well, it's about time. Let's return to Port Rock for the time being.」

* * *

Coming out from the cave, Jin headed for Port Rock, as he neared he thought he smelt something burning.

「Father! It's a fire!」

Almost at the same time, Reiko pointed out. Black smoke was coming out from the harbour area.

「Isn't that from the direction of the dry dock?」

With a bad feeling, Jin began to run. Reiko followed.

「Ah, the dock!」

It could be seen from a distance. The source of the fire was the dock owned by Marcia. A deep red flame could be seen inside, with smoke erupting, it was in a state where you couldn't see anything.

「Reiko, can you extinguish it?」

Immediately after Jin said that, the dock was flooded with seawater. Raising a lot of white steam, the fire immediately went out with the large amount of seawater.

「That was?」

「It was Water Storm.」

「Reinhardt,」

The person who used the magic was the Magi Engineer from the Shioro Empire they had met yesterday, Reinhardt.

Chapter 9 – True Value

The fire completely went out before long, and the area was filled with a burning smell.

「Reinhardt, thank you.」

Jin approached Reinhardt and expressed his gratitude.

「Hi Jin, was this your dock? 」

「yes」

「Well. When I noticed the smoke, the fire had already broke out and I wasn't able to do anything.」

「No, it was difficult to put out alone.」

Reinhardt seems disappointed when Jin says so,

「However, would there be your ship among them? At this rate it will have been reduced to ashes already...,....」

「Eh?」

「Eh?」

Reinhardt didn't expect such a reaction of Jin with what he was saying.

「AAAAAAH! MY SHIP!」

Marcia's cry rang out.

「Why, why such a thing. The ship that we expected to finally complete! Damn it!」

As Marcia shed large tears towards the ground, Jin approached Marcia.

「Marcia, you don't have to cry.」

Jin patted her on her shoulders as he said so.

「Jin?」

While wiping up Marcia's face with a handkerchief, which had become messy with tears and her runny nose, Jin,

「Arrow ! 」

He yelled out and

「Yes.」 (TL: I guess the automaton is named Arrow and speaks in

katakana, this is annoying to translate.)

An answer is returned, but for some reason from the rear.

「Look!」

Jin points to the rear, there was “Cygnus” floating in the sea.

「W-What?」

Marcia is stunned, but Jin remains calm.

「Is that the autonomous golem, Arrow? Isn't it natural to protect the ship?」

「Yes. We quickly evacuated from the ship into the sea since a fire occurred. The bow was slightly burnt.」

「I see, it must have been difficult.」

The burned bow can be repaired immediately, so that problem has passed. Marcia who saw the ship was safe was shedding tears of relief. Jin,

「Wow, Jin, you made that golem? Excellent! That a golem which can do self-controlled thought can be made, not even many in my country can make one!」

「.....who?」

When Marcia sees Reinhardt, her face shows suspicion, while Jin

「This is Reinhardt who I met yesterday, he's a Magic Engineer in the Shyoro Kingdom. He helped me put the fire out. I didn't put it out by myself.」

「Oh, I'm Marcia, a shipwright, nice to meet you.」

After Reinhardt makes a bow lightly to Marcia who said so,

「Well, well. As Jin introduced me, I am Reinhardt Randall, a magic engineer of the Shyoro Kingdom.」

Pushing aside the onlookers, 3 guards approach. (TL: I love how the word for onlookers/spectators can also be translated as rubberneck.)

「There appears to have been a fire, was anyone here involved??」

The person who asked appeared to be the leader.

「I'm Marcia, who rented this dock.」

「Similarly, Jin.」

「Reinhardt, a magic engineer of the Shyoro Kingdom.」

And the leader,

「Hm? ... so you're probably a guest of,....」

Reinhardt laughed,

「So you know? I'm a person of the Shyoro Kingdom who was invited to participate in the golem boat race.」

Then, the leader salutes.

「Excuse me, but wasn't your dock in the central part of the harbor?」

「Yeah. I happened to pass by by chance, because I saw the fire I put it out with magic.」

Then the leader saluted again,

「Is that so? Thank you for your work.」

Then, toward Marcia and Jin,

「I'd like you to come to the station so we can hear your circumstances.」

Reinhardt was clearly received with a different attitude.

In a low voice, Jin said to Reiko,

「I'll tell you later, make sure nothing more happens to the ship.」

Jin gave instructions and went out of the harbor to the office on the outskirts of the city block.

* * *

While the spectators were scattering, Reiko was monitoring the vicinity. This is because she felt an unknown magical power.

And it wasn't only Reiko who sensed it.

「What is it? This feeling?」

Reinhardt of the Shyoro Kingdom also felt the strange magic.

* * *

On the other hand, questioning was being carried out in the Guards Office.

「Like I said, this morning I was helping fishing and I wasn't here!」

「When I came to the port after playing properly, the fire was already extinguished.」

Neither Jin nor Marcia were present when the fire started.

「Fumu, but it's apparent that the fire started at the dock you borrowed.」

「But, there's no fire in the dock! ! 」

「That's apparent, but I can process materials without fire.」

「Hmm, then it is in fact an arson.」

The garrison leader had an uncooperative atmosphere and was gradually irritating Jin.

「Anyway, will it be arson or accidental fire, either way, I wouldn't set my own ship on fire.」

Jin tried to bring it to an end.

「U-Umu. Is that so?」

Here, Jin said

「The other docks are safe, is there any possibility that this was an arson committed towards us because we are planning to participate in the golem boat competition?」

Then,

「Hey, shut up! You bastard, you can't order me ! 」

The leader began to get angry suddenly. Jin thinks this is a little strange. Previously, Jin had encountered a similar atmosphere from a tax collector during a false investigation for tax evasion.

So Jin,

「The golem I made is autonomous. Why don't you ask him? He may be able to provide some useful information.」

He says so, then in the leader's surprise,

「What? Can you make such an advanced golem? It seems worth checking it then.」

So, the guard leader,

「OK. Marcia, you stay here, and Jin, you come with me.」

He said so and left Marcia to the other guards, and went to the area

with the rental dock again with Jin.

Chapter 10 – Death Sea Serpent

For now, Reiko and Reinhardt remained at the rental dock. Then they all felt a strange magic power for the sea, they became wary.

And then it appeared.

「Uwa, ah!」

「Wha-Wha-What!?!」

Surprised voices sounded.

With a neck projecting from the sea level in the harbour, it was a huge serpent. It was approaching here at tremendous speeds.

「Death Sea Serpent.....」

Someone muttered so. That was exactly right, it was a giant sea snake called Death Sea Serpent. It's length was over 10 metres.

「Lorelei!」

「Yes creator.」

Reinhardt's golem emerged from the sea.

「Defeat the Death Sea Serpent over there!」

「Yes.」

Reiko headed towards Reihardt,

「Please wait, Reinhardt.」

「Hm? What is it Reiko.」

「Um, do you know that demon over there?」

「Ah. I've only just heard of it. It's a huge sea snake that can use magic power. Of course, magic with the water attribute won't affect it.」

Reihardt accumulated magic in his right hand.

「What is effective is.....」

At that time, Lorelei hit the body of the Death Sea Serpent. With this, the speed of the Death Sea Serpent fell.

Angrily, the Death Sea Serpent opened its big mouth and tried to devour Lorelei.

「It's fire magic!Flame Lance!」

Aiming at its open mouth, Reihardt fired his magic. It had a fast speed as wasn't difficult to aim, it hit the open mouth of the Death Sea Serpent.

The Death Sea Serpent gave a Gyaaaaa cry and thrashed about. Lorelei had already escaped.

「I'm a bit sympathetic.....but with that rampage that seems impossible?」

As it thrashes around the harbour, it created large waves. Small boats swayed like leaves and were overturned.

Jin and Marcia's Cygnus is a catamaran and is very stable, with Arrow's skill to manipulate, there wasn't a need to worry for now.

Reiko confirmed it,

「Reinhardt, I'll stop the Death Sea Serpent for a little while. In the mean time, please do what you did before and bombard it with magic」

With that said, she jumped into the sea without even waiting for Reinhardt's reply.

「What? That girl?」

「That's reckless! What is she thinking?」

Such voices rose from those watching.

Reinhardt, believing the words of the artifact automata Reiko, started to accumulate magic in his right hand.

It was harder to swim without the swimming suit but in a short period of time, Reiko made it to the Death Sea Serpent and decided to try striking the body. She started with 10% output.

There was a sound like striking a lump of iron.

Although he believed in Reiko, Reinhardt truly doubted his own eyes. Reiko's upper blow blew the Death Sea Serpent a few metres away.

The Death Sea Serpent's body was 50cm in diameter. Half of it lifted out of the sea. In reaction, Reiko sank to the seabed.

「It's truly hard.」

Reiko sank into the sea, letting herself sink, she put a foot at a time onto the seabed. Then, kicking hard against the seabed, with that momentum, she plunged towards the Death Sea Serpent.

After rampaging and taking a single blow, the Death Sea Serpent's movements had become somewhat slow in Reiko's eyes. With that, it was hammered with two more intense blows. This time it was with 20%

power.

With that blow from beneath, the Death Sea Serpent was blown into the air. Receiving an impact it had never experienced before, it was half unconscious. Aiming at the open mouth,

「Flame Lance!」

Reihardt's magic exploded. With much more accumulated magic than the first time, the head of the Death Sea Serpent was blown off, the sea stained bright red with blood. With no head, the body of the Death Sea Serpent started floating around with the waves.

As Reiko dived into the sea in reaction, Jin looked at the situation. Swimming underwater, the blood wouldn't be there, she soon rose to the surface near the shore.

「Reiko!」

Just there, Jin was accompanied by the Guard Captain

「Father.」

Reiko was soaked, but the moisture was scattered clean with one swing of her arm. The special (rare) material wasn't just for show.

On the other hand, the Guard Captain was stunned to see Reiko strike the Death Sea Serpent. He hurriedly put away something into his pocket

that had been concealed in his hands.

「Jin and Reiko,」

Reihardt hit Jin across the shoulders,

「Oh, Jin! Your Miss Reiko is amazing! I really didn't think it would be enough to blow away the Death Sea Serpent! I will, after the time the competition has finished, invite you to my empire!」

While they were talking in a normal tone, cold sweat flowed on the Guard Captain's back as he listened to them.

(No way.....this guy is.....you have to be a big shot to be invited to the Shioro Empire.....it's a good thing everything didn't go as told. Anyway the boat is safe, the results are not going to change.)

Jin didn't notice the true motives of the Captain and called Arrow. The waves in the harbour had already settled, the catamaran Cygnus immediately came alongside the pier.

「You called?」

「Un, Arrow, just to hear a little from you, but before the fire, did you see anyone suspicious?」

「Yes, now that I think of it, before the fire, someone came by with a red stone.」

「Red Stone?」

「It might be a Fire Magi Crystal. Well, with the time to put it in place, it is possible to ignite a fire.」

Reihardt, who had been listening, said so. Jin was of the same opinion.

「I-I see. Right, so the person who threw the Magi Crystal was the arsonist?」

The Captain asked in a nervous tone.

「Thats right.」

「I-I understand. We will look for the culprit. Sorry for the trouble. Release Marcia.」

After the Captain said that, the carcass of the Death Sea Serpent was cleaned up and quickly carried away.

「I don't understand, how was the demon floating over there killed?」

When Jin asked Reinhardt,

「That's right. With the help of Miss Reiko, I managed to defeat it with fire magic.」

「Hmm. Reinhardt is also good at magic.」

Jin said so admiringly

「No, no, it's all thanks to her.」

While saying that he showed a small wand made from Mithril Silver. Its size fit comfortably into his palm. Jin looked at it,

「I see! It's preloaded with magic! With this, you can easily activate magic just by sending mana.」

Reinhardt heard it with consternation,

「What! You saw through its function with just one glance, as expected of you! Jin you're amazing! Really, I want you to come to my country at least once.」

He hit Jin on the back while saying so. Jin, moved by his spirit,

「A, ah. I want to go by all means if an opportunity comes.」

And that was his answer.

* * *

In the warehouse district in the area with a rental dock nearby.

「I'm really sorry, it seems to have been a failure.」

The big man apologized to the somewhat delicate man standing in front of him.

「It went off track due the the Death Sea Serpent.」

Because of the commotion with the Death Sea Serpent, the fire hadn't become a big issue.

「No way, the boat escaped to the sea in advance. However, they're a lucky bastard. There's no way they could have seen the Death Sea Serpent coming.」

「Well never mind, this time I'll smash their production.」

With that conversation, the two men departed from that place.

Chapter 11 – Intruder

「Haa, it's finally over.」

Jin and Marcia both sighed.

While Jin was repairing the rental dock, Marcia was explaining to the neighborhood and apologizing.

「It's already dusk...」

「We weren't able to accomplish anything today.」

Because of the fire incident, the preparations for the competition including the adjustment of the ship weren't able to be done that day.

「Well, there's always tomorrow. The fishing work I helped with was only until today.」

「I see, then you can work on Cygnus from tomorrow morning.」

Jin then thinks about what Marcia says for a bit.

「By the way isn't there a boat Marcia, Reiko and I can take?」

Because Marcia and Arrow are on Cygnus, it was easy for Jin to confirm

the various adjustments the ship needed.

Marcia felt,

「Oh, I get it. Will the small boat I used for fishing be fine?」

Because it became misty in the wharf of the fishing ground, I decided to use it tomorrow.

That night.

「Reiko, sorry, but will you guard the dock of Cygnus? Because it will be difficult if something causes another disturbance.」

「Okay, I'll call Luna from Horai.」

As she answered, Reiko passed through the warp gate which connected to Horai Island in the darkness, she instructed the golem girls Soleil and Luna.

「You called, older sister?」

「Yes, it is the decree of our most important father. Luna, you come with me. Soleil, you protect Horai Island.」

「Understood.」

And she returns to Port Rock again.

「Luna, you protect this ship in this dock as I explained it」

And the other golem that was there, Arrow,

「Arrow, this child is your senior whom father also made. I want you to protect the ship and the dock.」

「AS YOU HAVE DECIDED.」(TLFalın: Since Arrow speaks in full Katakana, I've been assuming she's supposed to sound like a machine, so I'm going to put what she says in full caps from now on to represent this. This only applies for the chapters I translate)

Arrow, the golem who's leg strength was reinforced in particular, the fighting power isn't also so (even by this world's standards, it's rather low). So it's weak to the offensive from a foreign enemy.

「You are the newest younger sister. Well, please rely on me.」

「YES.」

Reiko who made sure of it came back to the hotel.

Reiko does not have to sleep. After Jin went to sleep, she paused quietly while investigating the surrounding signs. It should be a condition of its state until the morning comes.

「.....An intruder?」

The number of people who forced open the locked back entrance to the Sea Pavilion was 2.If Jin who is the absolute master is not in danger, there is no reason to do anything.

「.....Are they going up to the 2nd floor?」

She leaves the room quietly so as not to wake Jin and stands in the corridor. A host of footsteps seem to be going up to the 3rd floor. The room where Marcia is staying is on the 3rd floor.

She thought of Jin who was looking forward to the Golem Boat Race with Marcia, and Reiko judged it would be bad if anything happened to Marcia. She went to the 3rd floor following an intruder without making a sound.

When she arrived at the 3rd floor, an intruder was standing in front of the Heron room. It was clear at a glance that their objective was in the room, and Marcia is staying in there.

「What is your business at midnight?」

* * *

The two people who were suddenly called out from the rear became stiff. They could probably be admired that they didn't cry out of surprise.

When the two people turned around, they saw a beautiful girl with raven-black hair dressed in a white apron and a light blue dress.

「Well? What is it? Such a suspicious person at a place like this?」

One whispered in a low voice. Reiko who heard it,

「Suspicious. There is a woman staying in that room. Are you going to break in?」

Then, one person brandished a knife and silently attacked Reiko. It seems dialogue appears useless when they decide to stay silent.

* * *

The knife instantly disappears from the hand of the man who attacked Reiko.

「Please, do not touch me with such a thing.」

Reiko had the knife in her hand before anyone noticed it. She folded the knife in two with her fingers and then folded it again. (TL: This could be translated as she broke it, but I always picture bending in a more humorous light, so I chose that translation instead)

「Hii.....」

As expected, the man who was astonished gave out a small cry. The other one is breaking open the lock to the door to enter the Heron room.

Reiko judged that as time was a priority she would have to change her power output to 20% from the standard 10%.

「Geh!」

Her fist struck the pit of the stomach of the man in front of her and her knife-hand blow struck the neck of the man trying to open the lock instantly knocking them out.

「Gah!」

The two intruders collapsed.

「.....fuu」

Reiko sighs out of character. Not killing is difficult at 20% power.

Reiko carries the 2 men under her arm. If a person saw this, it would be very surreal to them.

Without making any noise, Reiko comes down the stairs and out the back entrance that the men opened. She inspected her surroundings once more, but there wasn't anything suspicious within 1 kilometer.

She determined that safety had been secured for a while.

「Shall I throw them away somewhere?」

Reiko says as she kicks off the ground.

Reiko ran without making a sound and continued at full strength for about 15 minutes and dropped the 2 unconscious people there. She didn't know where it was, but it was an alley far in town.

Reiko then hurried back to Jin's room.

「Aaah, I slept well.」

When Jin woke up in the morning, Reiko, as usual, was there.

「Good morning, father.」

「Ah, good morning. It looks like good weather today.」

「Umm, I need to tell you something.

「Hm? What's wrong? 」

Reiko explained what happened last night to Jin. After Jin heard the story, he folded his arms.

「Uuun, it's too early to say.」

And the affair which showed signs of a series of interference will be linked.

The Magi Craftsman wasn't found in the end.

All the Magi Stones had been bought up.

The quality of bronze he bought was bad.

The arson at the dock.

And the intruder last night.

He didn't notice the magic interference formation at the town hall and the guard captain aimed at himself.

「.....Marcia is being targeted? No, the method of doing so is strange.」

The interference is meant to prevent Marcia from participating in the competition. The reasons for such a thing can't be thought of though.

She isn't a particular favorite and she also isn't a famous shipwright.

Reiko did catch the intruder, and if interrogated they could reveal something, but it's too early to say.

It's bad to ask Reiko to consider something like that.

「Oh well, at any rate, I can't yield to interference.」

Jin who concluded so for now was preparing and is now coming down to the 1st floor slowly. After washing his face, he goes to the dining room and Marcia is already there.

「Good morning, Marcia.」

「Oh, Jin. Good morning. What are we going to do today?」

After the 2 people quickly ate their breakfasts and fixed their outfits, they hurried to the harbor together.

Marcia arrived at the dock where Cygnus floated. Because Luna left a little earlier, there was no unnecessary trouble.

「Well, Jin, please go from here to that harbor, because my boat is there.」

As she said so and Arrow started to row, Marcia slowly left the port.

「Well, Reiko, let's go.」

「Yes father.」

Jin gave Reiko the lump of bronze that was about to melt that laid on the rental dock, and went to the harbor the fishermen used.

Chapter 12 – One Piece

「Hey, Jin ! 」

Marcia's voice sounded through the deserted fishermen's harbor.

「Not there, a little more to the other side.」

It's moved according to the directions.

A small 2 seater boat was moored at the pier that was becoming misty.

「Okay, that's it, you can get in now.」

Marcia was saying from the shore, so Jin untied the rope and boarded the ship followed by Reiko, too. Because it was used to help with fishing ,it smelled of young dried fish.

「You go first, and I'll go slowly later.」

Jin calls out to Marcia,

「《Deodorant》」

The smell was killed by 1 and <<deodorant>> of engineering magic.
(TLFalın: I would have thought it would be craftsman magic, but the

dictionaries I looked at said engineering)

Then Jin processed a lump of bronze which he gave to Reiko.

「|Transformation 《Forming》, 《Hardening》」

He then began forming the bronze by hand as though he were kneading clay.

He had completed 2 water wheels and a crank like steering wheel.

「Later, a bearing huh?」

Because the ball bearing was impossible now, it was completed immediately with a plain bearing.

「Ok, attach this, and, tto.」 (TLFalın: For those unfamiliar with it, tto is basically a grunt made when lifting or moving something.)

In brief, Jin made a side-wheel steamer. He attached the waterwheels to both sides of the hull. The steering wheels operate the right and left separately.

It's been driven by Jin of course, so far Reiko hadn't though.

「Ok, Reiko, please turn this and move the ship.」

Jin then explains to Reiko, the reason the waterwheels on the right and left were made independent was to omit the rudder. The ship can be controlled at will by changing the rotary speed of the waterwheels.

Unfortunately, it is too inefficient for an ordinary golem, but they're able to do this because it's Reiko. It's because it's natural for the power of the legs to be stronger than the power of the arm for a golem.

「Yes, leave it to me.」

However, it can get enough thrust by hand thanks to Reiko who is a super golem. It is an advantage that the direction can be changed without a rudder.

First, she familiarizes herself with it. She starts slow and gradually gets faster. Reiko handled the small boat freely and went out to the shore.

There were several areas of the sea for practice, and Marcia and others were to the east of the harbor.

During this season, the local sea is calm. This is why the competition is carried out now.

On the sea which had calmed down, several ships were sailing around. One ship was the Cygnus.

「Oh, Jin came.... what's that?」

Marcia saw the side-wheel steamer and asked in surprise.

「Yes, this is better than an oar. To row it, the legs have worse efficiency, but Reiko can handle it.」

When Jin says so, Marcia frowned,

「You know, it may be Jin and an unnecessary thing, but even if Reiko is an assistant and can use physical reinforcement magic, how can you be praised for something that is so hard to drive?」

「Eh?」

Jin didn't understand what she said for an instant, but understood what she was saying shortly after.

「Is that so? What were you saying Marcia?」

「What ? 」

「Reiko is a golem I made.」

「Eh?」

It was Marcia's turn to be astonished this time.

「When we just met, I decided to stay silent, but I must confess. We're teammates.」

「.....」

「Marcia？」

「Slow down, idiot!」

She appeared to somehow get angry.

「I'm sorry, but when we just met it seemed too complex of a thing to talk about.」

Then Jin worked hard to pacify Marcia for a while.

「.....well, because of the degree of surprise this time, now that I really know about your ability, I can understand your anxiety.」

Marcia says,

「A-ah, well, it's also because of Jin's contribution's that I can participate in the competition.... I'll do this talk here.」

Marcia said positively as she prepared for the competition, which relieved Jin.

The fact that Marcia was being targeted was a story that Jin was determined to stay silent about until after the competition was over.

It was uncertain whether she was specifically targeted, but he wanted her to focus on the competition for now. Other than that, he decided to pay as much attention as possible to Marcia's security.

(If I could interrogate yesterday's intruder, maybe I could figure something out.)

But Reiko had already thrown out the trash. *(TLFalin: I completely twisted this, it basically just said that Reiko had already disposed of it, but I thought this would sound better.)*

After that, he resumed preparation for the competition.

Promoting the cooperation of the golem and the operator is important. If compared, it's something like the relation between the coachman and the horse of a carriage?

Marcia and the golem Arrow improved their cooperation whenever they had time while Jin observes closely for malfunctions and makes modifications during every break.

The morning ended with this cycle.

「After I eat lunch, I'll go get the swimsuit for the competition.」

Marcia says, while Jin says

「Swimsuit for the competition ? 」

「Yes, the participation fee also includes that part.」

10,000 torrs, a high participation fee of approximately 100,000 yen seemed to contain not only the budget but also the share of such a thing.

「I see, then I will work on Arrow in the meantime.」

「Yes, please.」

After lunch, Marcia left for the competition office in the town hall.
(TLFalín: I can't remember if we used guild hall or town hall in the earlier translations, I'll fix it later if it's the other)

Jin is addicted to remodeling Arrow in the name of tuning up.

「Well, it moves as expected, but the bronze joint wears out when it moves so much.」

As he said that, he gave it a coating of adamant that he brought from Hourai island. It isn't really a violation of the rules.

「| Because the Magic Crystal deteriorated a little, I will exchange it for a new one.」

In addition,

「Will the bronze resist corrosion if I put a thin layer of mithril on it?」

It is the world of his hobby, but no one is stopping it.

When addict tuning up (remodeling) was over

「.....Jin, I'm back.」

Marcia came back... but when Jin saw her appearance he nearly spouted out.

「Wha-..... ! 」

Marcia was wearing a navy blue one piece swimsuit. Besides, it looked just like the figure that Jin had made during the registration examination. The chairperson who saw the figure had decided to use it.

「Some design they have this year, and.... Jin, do you have something to say?」

「A-ah.... I'm sorry, what is it?」

At first, Jin wanted to apologize

「We, well, it looks great ! 」

Marcia stared at him with jiiii eyes.

「That sounded unnatural.....」

「N-no, not at all! It's because Marcia's style is good, it looks good, really!」

When that was said, Marcia's cheeks began to redden.

「Is that so? Well, if Jin says so.」

Because Marcia went out in public in the swimsuit, all of the men at the harbor was staring at her swimsuit form. But she herself thought it was bothersome.

「Well then, let's start the afternoon training session ! 」

Saying so, she got in Cygnus.

After repeating practice and adjustment until the evening, all that was left was to wait for the preliminary the next day.

* * *

「Not good! That reminds me, I have to extend the stay at the hotel!」

Jin cried when he remembered on his way back to the Sea Pavilion.

「It's ok Father, when we left this morning I had it extended for 3 more

nights.」

Reiko was helpful.

Chapter 13 – Just Before the Preliminary Starts

The dawn of the next day. Fine weather. The day of the preliminaries for the golem boat race.

The harbor was wrapped in a vibrant energy all morning. As for each of the participants,

「Aaaah, I'm a little nervous.」

「I couldn't sleep well last night.」

「Fufufu, I'll win today ! 」

「Everyone seems so great, I feel like renouncing.」

A tense person, a determined person, an uneasy person. They are showing various faces. Meanwhile, Jin was as usual.

「Well, there are a lot of ships. There are also a lot of golems. But physical strength specialized types, well, it's a poor idea, isn't it?」

「Isn't it unreasonable to compare them with father/Otou-sama?」

While Jin and Reiko's exchange was heard, Marcia was becoming eager, too.

「Hey, Jin ! 」

「Oh, Reinhardt!」

Reinhardt rushed up with a girl in a yellow one-piece swimsuit behind him.

「This is Jin's first time, this is Elsa, the operator of my ship and my cousin.」

「Elsa Randall, best regards.」

Although similar to Reinhardt, her semi-short platinum blonde hair and light-blue pupils are clearly those of a beautiful girl. She has a fair complexion and is not tanning.

「I'm Jin. This is Marcia who is the ship operator and my teammate, and this is Reiko.」

「I'm Marcia.」

「Best regards.」

The ship operators shake hands. Reinhardt interrupted at this point.

「Hahahaha, Elsa, your chest already lost... OUCH!」

Reinhardt who spoke out with sexual harassment accidentally fell into the sea after Elsa paid out a kick in silence.

「Good grief, Rai-nii should learn some delicacy.」

As they are talking, another person approaches them.

「Hi, Mr. Reinhardt and Ms. Elsa. This must be Marcia, and this is?」

It was the pompous man, Valentino.

「This is Mr. Valentino. He's Mr. Jin.」

Reinhardt who has climbed up from the sea calls out to Jin while he is still dripping wet.

「Ah, so he had such a name, excuse me. Well, Ms. Elsa, Marcia, how's your condition today?」

As though he couldn't care about a man, Valentino focuses his attention only on Elsa and Marcia. Reiko is too young and doesn't seem to have caught his eyes.

Marcia seems depressed to be looked at in such a manner.

「I am excellen. It's pleasant weather so it would be fun to start the

qualifier early.」

And, as if Elsa doesn't feel his eyes,

「A decent finish, for Mr. Valentino.」

After Valentino bows with his thin chest that has no muscle,

「Perfect! I will take first in the preliminary.」

He talked big, and then someone appeared from behind Valentino.

「Mr. Valentino, the preliminaries will start soon.」

It was a small beauty who put on a red one-piece swimsuit. She was glamorous.

「Is it Riche? I see, I will go now.」

And with a pompous bow,

「Well then, I wish you luck.」

And then walked out as he said so.

「As usual, Mr. Valentino.」

Elsa who was half disgusted.

「Yes, but that confidence also isn't groundless.」

Unusually, Reinhardt said this with a serious tone.

And voice by <<loudspeaker>> sounds through harbor.

「Now then, we will soon start the 10th Golem Boat race preliminaries, participants board promptly and get ready.」

「Well then, I'm off」

Marcia calls out to Jin.

「Let's each do our best.」

Reinhardt said as he left together with Elsa.

Jin saw the three of them off.

「When the competition starts, there will be nothing for me to do anymore. I believe Marcia is an arrow that can only be watched.」 *(TL: I think this is supposed to be a reference comparing her to an arrow and him an archer, once the arrow is let fly he can do no more.)*

「Yes, and I am your arm Father.」

And Jin and Reiko went to the dedicated staff seating.

* * *

「Now, the 10th annual golem boat race will begin, and we have a record high number of participants and even many from out of town too, it's an unprecedented upsurge.」

The live coverage uses 《loudspeaker》，so the voice sounds to every corner of the harbor that is the meeting place.

「We have invited a young Magic Craftsman, Bernardo, whom is the pride of our country for commentary.」

「I'm Bernard and it's a pleasure to be here today and see so many different golem boats.」

「Now, Bernard, could you explain the competition in a way that a visitor who came sightseeing from a foreign territory could understand?」

Of the spectators, who were in the pay seats in the harbor, more than half were tourists and the rest were of the local populace.

「Let me see, to put it briefly, it is a competition of speed, but the special parts are where a golem propels the ship and a woman steers it.」

「In this case it means that performance of the golem means a lot.」

「Yes, that's also true, but the operations also cannot be ignored. Today's preliminary is just a competition of simple speed, but for tomorrow's competition they will have to go through several checkpoints which also requires navigation.」

「I see, then cooperation between the ship operator and the golem is important?」

「That's right, just as it's important for a coachman and a horse the ship operator also needs to control the golem.」

「Thank you very much. Now, the participants and their ships seem ready to start soon in the harbor.」

As this was said, the ships were lining up in their participation application order and slowly went around the harbor following the guide ship.

Before the chairman floats a large magic screen so the audience can get a good look at it.

「This year, ship operators are wearing a customized swimsuit showing off their limbs to the audience without regret.」

「The swimsuit has a very unique design, right?」

Jin didn't think that the figurine he made for the test would be this popular, either.

「Bernard, can you tell us about some of the teams?」

「Well, first, the team that stands at number one “Elias's Glory”. This is the team of Mr. Valentino who is one of the 3 aides of Marquis Hudson, he has Miss Riche who was a runner up last time as a ship operator, and the golem is a product of Sir Valerio. It can be said it has cornered the position of favorite.」

「That's right, I can imagine the strength just by seeing the huge upper body of that golem. If an oar is used by that arm, it should be able to achieve terrible speeds.」

The picture reflected in the 《magic screen》 changes.

「In the third is the Blue Marine team which is an invitation team and Reinhardt's team of four men of the Randall count family and are also excellent magic craftsmen so they can't be overlooked can they?」

The ship fills a large part of the magic screen.

「Are you promoting the mermaid type golem “Lorelei” and the boat with a shallow hull?」

The emcee explains while examining the documents on hand.

「The ship operator is Elsa, Reinhardts cousin and hte daughter of the viscount. Elsa is also a mage like you.」

An especially big shout of joy broke out when I explained so it.

「Really, Reinhardt was from a count family.」

「You have a relation to the status with a count, huh?」

Then the introduction of the player continues, but there is not the thing which is particularly new for Jin either. But,

「Oh? What is that?」

It is athlete's number 27. What are those huge wings that grow at the back of the golem?

「Bernard, it's an interesting golem, isn't it?」

「Let me see. When a waterfowl flies out, it flies on the surface of the water, did you reference that?」

「The width of the ship was defined as four meters or less, but there's no limits on the golem.」

「Yes, but with those wings the weight will be considerable.」

When seeing the golem and the whole metal ship, it sank fairly well into the water and its weight could be imagined.

「Hm? What's that?」

Jin looked slightly interesting.

Athlete number 28, team “Sea Bird”. The hull was a slim canoe type, but a supporting hull called the outrigger was attached to both sides.

「It's the fascinating shape, isn't it?」

Reiko says

「No, if a wave is calm, that is good, but the weight of the hull of the middle hangs over the roof truss and may compromise when a large enough wave lifts one of the outriggers.」

Jin explains.

「I see, you don't have the worry by a catamaran of my team, right? 」

Reiko says as she consents.

「Oh. But it will be effective in this calm sea. In addition, that golem...」

Jin was worried about the golem that had four arms. Naturally, it has

four oars. The pattern of the short oar was seen clearly.

「It may be the desperate plan in which you can't have a long oar by the one with an outrigger, but it isn't bad.」

「Now then, the dark horse, a unique team who's athlete number is 35, "MJR".」

Jin's and others team is introduced at the end.

「The shape of the ship is different, isn't it?」

「That's right. The shape is that of 2 thin ships that were lined up. It can be said that this emphasized stability. And what you should pay attention to is the propulsion system.」

「What is it? It seems to be a water mill.」

It greatly resembles <<Cygnus>>. With it's strange shape it puts the audience in a buzz.

「It's a water mill that water flows around, but this is the reverse, isn't it? The reason which is turning a water mill and is kicking water. This seems fascinating.」

The introduction of the participating teams ended with the 35th Cygnus team at the end. The preliminaries are starting shortly.

Chapter 14 – Split

「For the qualifiers, you have to sail out the harbour, around the distant rock and return to the harbour. This will be done in groups of five boats, the top two boats can proceed to the race tomorrow.」

The explanation of the competition continued.

「Since there are 35 teams participating this year, teams 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29 will be in the first set.」

Jin's Team 『MJR』 is team 35 and is in the last set.

「Well then, it is qualifying round one!」

It is the set where Glory of Elias, team 1, belonging to the snobbish man Valentino is in.

Everyone in this set wore red swimsuits. Each qualifying block seems to have a different colour swimsuit.

From what Jin saw, the hulls of the five teams are thin like a canoe. The 5 boats were all using oars to row the boat, all five looked natural but the golem on Glory of Elias stood out as the strongest one.

「He must have employed an excellent Magi Craftsman with his status and money.」

His imagination was right on target. However, every team is more or less doing this and it isn't a particularly bad thing.

「Now, we can finally begin! 5,4,3,2,1, start!」

Water sprays splashed at the same time the start flag was waved. The golems began rowing in unison.

In a moment, team 1 began to lead. It was followed by teams 15, 19, 22 and 8.

「Hmm, as expected, power doesn't mean everything.」

Jin murmured. The golem on Glory of Elias was equipped with an oar twice as big as the others. The difference opened rapidly.

「Team 1, Glory of Elias, has reached the end and turned back!」

Because a ship with a Magic Eye was acting as a broadcast relay, images could be sent to a magic Screen, from there, the audience could also see clearly.

The distance to the outer islands is approximately one kilometer. The round trip is two kilometers. Reaching the goal, Glory of Elias was 500m ahead of second place.

「It's about 1.3 times fast. In addition, it's unlikely that was its best.」

Jin began to analyze the rival's ability

In the second qualifying round, the teams 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30 were all about the same average ability. There was nothing special in particular. Incidentally, the colour of the swimsuit was orange.

And the third round.

「So, the third qualifying round, set 3, the attention is on team Blue Marine! The golem of the mermaid type is the first that has been seen in the history of the rally! What kind of run will it show us.」

This block's contestants had yellow swimsuits.

「5, 4, 3, 2, 1, start!」

Lorelei is pushing from the wide, shallow bottom from the rear of the hull. The kick is strong and steadily pushed away from the other 4 ships.

「This speed is not inferior to that of Glory of Elias a short while ago!」

The power is also included in the commentary.

「Un, it doesn't have to match the shape of the hull. but even in a catamaran, it can still be propelled between the two.」

Jin analysed the disadvantages and vulnerable points of the golem Lorelei.

In the meantime, set 3 ended quickly for the number 1 position. This was also a big victory with a 500m difference between second place.

Qualifying rounds 4 and 5 progressed but there were no teams catching Jin's eye.

In round 6 there is a group with Feather Golems. The colour of the swimsuit is light blue.

「3, 2, 1, start!」

「Oooo, team 27, its wings have expanded! The wings are flapping!」

「There is a considerable force. The ship lifted slightly.」

As well as producing a driving force by flapping its wings, the feather golems also lift the ship up slightly, reducing resistance.

「However, the efficiency is too bad.」

Murmured Jin, team 27 had been in second place right after the start, but whether it was due to the unreasonable golem or magical power shortage it increasingly slowed down and ended up at the rear.

「However, the idea was interesting」

After all that, it came to the goal last.

And then the final qualifying round. The operators of our block wore a dark blue bathing suit.

「Now, today's last race, qualifying round 7 is about to begin!」

The cheers went up after the commentators voice. Jin payed attention. As well as Marcia, team 28 had a golem with four arms.

「It seems that team 28 has just had a golem change, Bernardo will explain.」

「That's right. It is said that a master craftsman Mr. Giordano made it.」

「Eh? Wasn't he the person who made the golem of the team that took last year's victory?」

「That's right. Because of this attention will be necessary. More than that, I also have an interest in team 35.」

Here, the topic of Cygnus came out.

「Ha, I had also said that at the time of the parade.」

「Yes. It's also interesting that the golem looks just like the operator. Let's pay attention.」

And the final qualifying round begins.

「5, 4, 3, 2, 1, Start!」

Surprisingly, the team that started at the front was team 28. The golem was made in the form to lie down across the hull, it's four arms moved very efficiently.

「Hou, it's rowing like an ant moving, interesting.」

Jin was a little impressed. On the other hand, Marcia was in second place. Jin watched the situation.

「It looked like Marcia had an idea. Arrow was far from expending all it's energy. She probably thought that ones abilities shouldn't be shown before the finals tomorrow.」

「But, Otou-san, she didn't tell you anything.」

Reiko asked in a questioning tone.

「Ah, probably, if you look at the race now 」

While talking, the ships approached the turning point rock. For now,

team 28 is first with Marcia in second place.

「Bernado, how does it look?」

「Yes, No. 28 is good at using the oar. And I'm looking forward to No.35 catching up.」

On the Magic Projection Window, right now, a circle was shown around where Marcia and Cygnus were.

「Hmm, the maneuverability is passable. Very soon, Marcia will get serious?」

Immediately after Jin said so.

「Ooh, team No. 35, a spurt!」

Cygnus the splashing from the rear wheel increased conspicuously. And the Cygnus's speed increased.

「Team No. 35 is fast, fast! It's fiercely catching up with number 28 in first place.」

As the play by play commentary increased, the audience cheered.

「Team 28 had also increased the pace! But No. 35 is faster than that! And.....now! It's overtaken! No. 35 is in first place!」

As it is, Cygus will continue to keep first place.,

「Goooaall!! First place No. 35, Second place is No. 28!」

「Wow, Bernado's commentary, it was a heated battle.」

「That's right, a race suitable for the final qualifying round.」

「However, why didn't No. 35 start with that speed from the beginning?」

There was the natural question.

「That's right, I will guess here, based on the construction, the burden on the waterwheel is great when moving at full speed. It is likely they have saved it in preparation for tomorrow's race.」

While it is a plausible answer, they have misjudged Jin. After all, the moving parts are reinforced with Adamantium, there is no worry that it could be broken with Arrow's energy.

But in the play by play seat,

「Indeed, the reason was because of the uneasiness about the durability.」

They understood.

「Now, the 10th golem boat qualifying round competition has been completed. Customers, be careful that you don't leave anything behind. In addition, tomorrow's race will start at 9:00 in the morning.」

While the announcements were said,

「Now then, to thank Marcia for her work.」

When Jin rose,

「Jin? My eyes were right after all ! Your method of ship propulsion is wonderful!」

Turning around, the sultry voice was from Reinhardt. Elsa, dressed in a swimsuit was there too.

「Because the practice waters were different, I saw it for the first time today, hmm, it's a novel idea to turn a waterwheel to run! I want to hear the related stories! That's right, why don't we have a meal together tonight?」

As Reinhardt rattled on by himself, Elsa next to him,

「Sorry for being noisy.As my brother said, what about it?」

She asked laconically. Jin,

「If Marcia is okay, I don't mind.」

Since the answer was so,

「Oh I see! Then I must quickly go to Marcia to check!」

And, Reinhardt ran towards the harbour,

「Hm? What about me?」

Just there, Marcia, who had entrusted the boat to management personnel, came. Jin, told Reinhardt's offer to Marcia.

「Mm, I don't mind.」

Marcia immediately answered. Reinhardt was overjoyed to hear that.

「I see! Right, then let's go!」

As he started to walk, he was stopped by Elsa pulling his hand.

「Ani, Marcia and I are still in swimsuits. Wait for a moment while we change clothes.」

Chapter 15 – Movements of the Lower Class Countries

In the Aristocrat District in Port Rock in central region, we followed the guidance of Reinhardt to some high-quality restaurants.

「Well, this is a place I haven't been to.」

Marcia said, even Jin felt the same. They realized that Reinhardt and the others are nobles once more.

But Jin was raised in modern Japan in the end. He only had knowledge about aristocrats, so his attitude didn't change.

On the other hand, Marcia doesn't appear to have expected such a luxurious restaurant.

「Uh, well, would it be better for me to use some more manners since you're the children of a noble?」

Marcia said nervously, but after he was asked, Reinhardt started to laugh.

「I want you to keep talking to me like you have so far. Well, you don't have to mind it with the manners because the room here is private.」

「Really! I'm relieved, otherwise I would've turned back.」

Jin says.

「Jin, calm down. Haven't you been such a place?」

「No, it's my first time.」

When he was on earth, Jin had been to a luxury Japanese restaurant at a customer reception with his boss. He didn't know what to do so he couldn't calm down and kept still the whole time.

「Well, because it's a private room, just act like you did before.」

As he says so, the party enters the shop with Reinhardt at the lead. Jin, Reiko, Marcia, and at the end Elsa.

「Welcome, you're Reinhardt, correct? Please, come this way.」

It seems that they've already been informed and the shop employee guides the party to a private room.

「Please enjoy yourselves.」

As they said so, the person who guided them left.

The room had a table and five luxurious chairs. When counted there was just enough for the five people in the group.

「We've been waiting, young master, young lady.」

「I appreciate your efforts.」

The two women wore maid clothes. It seems to be Reinhardt and Elsa's maids. When they signalled,

「Welcome, shall I bring out the dishes immediately?」

Waitresses came out immediately.

「Yes, please do.」

When Reinhardt said that, several waitresses came out, one after another, and the table instantly became full of dishes.

「With this, we shall take our leave.」

After they said so, the two maids instructed the waitresses to leave the room and closed the door.

「Now then, shall we have a toast first?」

Saying so, Reinhardt raises a glass. Everyone else except for Reiko imitated it.

The maids poured some foaming wine and,

「I'm grateful that we could get to know each other.」

Following Reinhardt's lead, the glasses were put together and a dim sound sounded.

Reinhardt who drank the sparkling wine,

「Yes, the wine of this country is good.」

Said so and put the emptied glass on the table.

「By the way, Jin, Marcia. Could you tell me about something?」

Differently from usual, Reinhardt spoke in a serious tone.

「It's you, Jin, that I find most interesting. It's about Reiko, that golem, and the waterwheel ship are not things that an ordinary person would think of, if you don't mind, would you tell me about it?」

Jin took a sip of the sweet wine,

「I was an orphan, I don't know my parents. I was taught all of it by my teacher, but my teacher isn't around anymore.」

He said so. He didn't say a lie, but he didn't tell all of the truth.

「The place I live is a solitary island and there's an artifact, a Warp Gate.」

「A Warp Gate! That's very rare!」

Reinhardt couldn't be silent any more and replied in a rough tone.

「I came to this continent with the warp gate and went around here and there. By the way, I am ignorant of the world's common sense, so I hope you'll forgive me for this.」

As they were conversing, they left out some parts, but truth was being half told, so the people who were listening could understand.

「I see! That's why you have a special way of thinking! Who was your master?」

Although he was unsure for a moment, Jin decided to tell the truth about this.

「She was Adrianna.」

When Reinhardt heard this, he was puzzled.

「Hmmm, where have I heard that before?」

Then, Elsa who had remained silent so far,

「Big Brother Rai, there was a legendary person a long time ago who had the same name and was called a Magic Craftsman. If I am not mistaken, her name was Adrianna Balbora Ceci.」

Jin was surprised to hear the name of his late predecessor who died more than 1000 years ago now.

「So that was it! In those days Magic Craftsmen were considered heretics. Indeed, so your master had that name?」

「Y-yeah.」

To be named after the person themselves, Jin knows this isn't true, but he's not foolish enough to say so. Reiko who was to the side drew a favorable opinion of the two people for knowing her mother's name.

「Is that so? Then I want to ask Marcia next, since I've been asking Jin. It's about the shape of the ship, was that your doing?」

Reinhardt took a slightly firm tone again.

「Y-yeah, that's right.」

Marcia has been tense for a while. Reinhardt laughs and returns to his rough tone.

「Your normal tone is good enough, after all, we're in a private room for that.」

He said to encourage her.

「W-well, if you insist. Though it's called a catamaran, my father made a prototype and Jin and I completed it.」

「Well, your father was a shipwright too, right?」

Marcia nodded,

「The works not as earnest as you think. Because I get absorbed in gambling, my feminine appeal has been disappearing. But I liked that catamaran that father made in with a sense of fun.」

After she said so, she took a drink of the wine. One of the maids immediately topped it off.

「At first, it was a thicker ship, but a thinner one was likely to be faster, so we made it thin.」

「I see, I see, it's because it's thin that it speeds up, but the stability worsens. But the catamaran is still nicely stable.」

As he says so Reinhardt takes a drink of the wine that was poured by the maid, and towards Jin,

「Then wouldn't it be good for Jin to get to know a lot about this continent?」

Saying so, Jin nodded.

「Then let's explain a bit about the continent before talking about my country.」

Reinhardt takes another drink and says,

「300 years ago, a great magic war happened. At that time the country that took the leading part in the human side was the Dinari Kingdom but because of a disruption afterwards, it is at present a subordinate country.」

In fact, Jin did not know this, so he nodded once.

「The Celuria Kingdom was set up in the area around the castle town of the Dinari Kingdom. They are a country which boasts one of the greatest cultures. It's because they succeeded the former Dinari Kingdom.」

It was quite an interesting story, which made Jin want to listen.

「There is a rumor that the Cerulia Kingdom is making some suspicious moves, but that isn't something to talk about here.」

However, Jin has already heard of it.

「On the other hand, the Shioro Empire I belong to is built where the first generation of the Dinari Kingdom and his younger brother founded the kingdom in the west. So, although not exact, it can be said to have been the Dinari Kingdom.」

「I see.」

So that he doesn't remain silent the whole time, Jin chimes in with a moderate reply.

「On the other hand, the Klein Kingdom, Franz Kingdom, Egrea Kingdom, the Elias Kingdom, and the Leonard Kingdom at the east end of the continent are also former Dinari Kingdoms.」(TL:If any of these have been mentioned before, please correct me.)

「I see」

「Well, it is said that to prevent the west from invading that the younger brother of the founder of Dinari founded the Shioro Empire.」

「Invasion ? 」

「Yes. A large desert spreads out to the west of the Shioro Empire, and there are different ethnic groups on the other side of the desert.」

「Different ethnic groups?」

「Yeah, after the magic war, it is said that the vanguards only attacked

once. I think they thought those of us who took part in the war would be easy to take.」

It's a logical reason.

「But there's an artifact in the Shioro Empire from the great war in those days.」

「An Artifact? What kind?」

Then Reinhardt laughed.

「I can't tell you here, but if you come to our Shioro Empire as a guest, it might be different.」

Reinhardt said

「Now, let's eat.」

After saying so, the two maids instructed the wait staff.

Then they were preoccupied in casual conversation while eating.

It was certain that Jin was interested in the artifact that was in the Shioro Empire.

That evening, at the dock that the competition committee manages, the ships and golems which are to appear in the finals are kept there.

In order to suppress consumption of the magic stones or magic crystals, the golems have suspended their movement temporarily.

A suspicious figure appears.

After rustling around a little, the suspicious figure opened the lock to the dock; then,

「What are you doing?」

「What is... What are you ah, ah, ow...!」

The next morning, a man who was tied up was found rolling in front of the dock.

The man was a member of the harbor garrison. He is going to be interrogated about what happened and why he was there when he wasn't on night duty, and he sounded deranged babbling that a small girl was the one that tied him up.

Chapter 16 – Start of the Finals

The next day had fine weather, which made it perfect for the competition.

After breakfast, Jin and Marcia had a last meeting in front of the competition venue.

「Because the ship was built to be as maintenance free as possible, I don't think it's condition should have changed that much.」

「Yeah, I believe you, Jin.」

「So, what's your strategy?」

「Ah, As far as I've seen for this year's course, the area starting from the bay is a technical stage, so I think I'll suppress it until I pass there.」

The catamaran tends to lack quick mobility, but there is still a chance for the ship operator to show what they can do.

「Well, it's up to Marcia once you start, you can do as you like.」

When Jin says so, Marcia holds out her right hand.

「Jin, thanks for working with me and putting up with my selfishness. It was good to be able to meet you that day.」

Jin grasps her hand as well. There is nothing else that Jin will be able to do from this point on.

「Yeah, do your best.」

「Well then, I'm off.」

After Marcia turned away from Jin and walked 2 or 3 steps, she suddenly stopped and looked back.

「The swimsuit was too much.」

After she said so, Marcia left for the port.

Jin is in the staff seating like yesterday.

By the way, Reinhardt and the noble man, Valentino, are in the seats reserved for the distinguished guests arranged for the aristocrats. On the other hand, the staff seating isn't so full and is pretty much empty.

「I wonder why it's so vacant?」

Jin chooses a seat and sits down, while saying it's crowded, he still prefers this. Next to Jin is Reiko.

「Now then, I'm looking forward to this.」

Jin muttered so.

「Our team winning is already decided.」

Reiko says, but Jin,

「No, a competition is also a matter of luck as to whether we win or not, and no one knows what will happen, therefore it's interesting.」

He leaned back into his chair as he said so.

* * *

「Now, what we've all been anticipating, the long awaited finals!」

It was time and the voice of the announcer sounded. The audience seats were also more full today than they were yesterday.

「For today's finals, the feudal lord of the Elias Kingdom's southern Zause state has come to our Port Lock, Lord Dominique de Firentsiano!」

Just after the announcement, a female feudal lord waved her hand from the most expensive VIP box. (TL: It specifies woman, I was confused by the name Dominique (i originally used Dominick) into thinking it was a man)

「14 high speed boats, none of which are inferior, have entered this year. Who will win? The competitions final race will begin soon!」

14 ships left the dock that was for the exclusive use of competitors and went ahead slowly through the inside of the bay and gathered at the starting point.

「The golem boats with the beautiful female operators wrapped in multicolored swimsuits. Which ship will lead us to the climax? Let's find out with our own eyes!」

The cheers increased.

「Wow, the guests are excited too, huh.」

「That's right, the report says that the audience is larger by 2 tenths more because of the design of the swimsuit.」

After this, the one-piece swimsuit became the standard for the competition.

「Now everyone, the start preparations have been completed. Now we just need the countdown to start.」

Meanwhile, everyone quiets down as they wait for the countdown.

「.....5。4。3。2。1。START!」

During the thunderous cheer, the 14 ships started.

The first to jump out were number 1, “Elias’s Glory” followed by number 3, “Blue Marine” and 28 “Sea Bird”.

Marcia on the “Cygnus” was currently in 7th place.

「Started a little late.」

Jin murmured blankly. When she started, she had to delay to avoid the next ship and was a little late.

「When in a melee, the catamaran may be slightly disadvantageous.」

Because she didn’t want to bump the hull of the “Cygnus” she contented herself with 7th place for now.

「Bernard, the first and third are starting to fall out as expected.」

The announcer is the same as yesterday.

「That’s right, from what we’ve seen in the preliminary it’s reasonable. The one that’s about to take 3rd, number 28, seems to have passed through the confusion at the start.」

「Is number 35 delayed?」

「Based on yesterdays catch up, I think that it could catch up after this. I'm anticipating what'll happen next.」

As the commentators had expected, when Marcia got out of the bay and into the open sea she accelerated.

「Did you see number 35 spurt ahead?」

Marcia passes 6th place and into fifth place and is pressing in on number 10 in 4th place.

Confirmation by the naked eye becomes difficult from this point, so a picture reflected on the Magic Screen has to be relied on.

「It came out as expected, didn't it Bernard?」

「Yeah, number 35 is as fast as expected, isn't it? Since the obstacles have decreased by going out into the open sea, they can now display their full ability.」

Cygnus just overtook number 10 and reached 4th place, just as the race breaks into the second stage.

The second stage is a reef zone with an uninhabited island, "Io", located at the turn point.

「Competitor number 1 breaks into the reef zone still in 1st followed by numbers 3, 28, 35, 10, and 18.」

「Because of the reef, navigation will be important here.」

Because they have to detour around the reef to avoid it, they are not able to reach their highest speeds.

Competitor number 1 is Riche, a veteran ship operator, but they can't make full use of the driving force of the strong golem.

Number 3, Elsa handled the ship without the risk of danger, and Lorelei responds to that too.

Number 28 is taking advantage of the combination of the oar, rudder, and 4 arms to use their full mobility to advance through the reef zone.

And number 35, Marcia, rejoiced at being able to accelerate like she wanted thanks to the golem Arrow.

「As expected of Jin, you can do it!」

A golem with autonomy and the mutual understanding of the “Master/Slave” communication could convey the delicate controls well.

This was a result of the magic Jin applied to the hull called Surface Treatment.

Everyone has a slight magical power, and Marcia's is transmitted through the hull to Arrow.

Because delicate acceleration and deceleration is possible, it makes up for the lower mobility.

But not everyone is getting along so well.

「Ouch! Number 34 seems to hit a reef! Their ship's hull seems to be damaged, seems they'll have to retire here.」

Some of the ships couldn't avoid the reef and have retired. Some among them even sank.

「Again! They couldn't avoid number 16 and the hull hit the reef! Oh, well, it's sinking! Is the ship operator alright?」

The ship of the race officials who was standing by rushed up and rescued the ship operator.

「The swimsuit is torn mercilessly! Is the ship operator safe?」

A rescue scene was reflected in the large Magic Screen. The ship operator whose swimsuit was torn was reflected in it, and it led to a scene that did not change regardless of the world in that the men raised from their seats giving shouts of joy.

「The lead group has just broken through the reef area! In the lead are number 1 and 3, followed by 25 and 35!」

「The leading order doesn't seem to have changed, has it? Well, that's the natural result, overtaking in that zone is difficult. But numbers 28 and 35 are closing the distance with 1 and 3, aren't they?」

In the reef area of the 2nd stage, 4 other ships had to drop out, 34, 2, 16, and 12.

The 3rd stage is the open sea, a speed stage without any obstacles.

Everyone can show the maximum speed they have. After the deserted island "Io", there is the turning point.

「Number 3 spurted ahead! Fast, fast! As they start to line up with number 1, number 1 also increases their speed!」

Although Elsa tried to outrun him, Riche lets her golem accelerate more to full speed and keeps the top position.

「28 and 35 are also increasing their speed!」

It was possible to see this from the audience seats through the Magic Screen.

「You can do it, Marcia.」

「Yes, the magic power connection with Arrow is being used well.」

Jin and Reiko were judged with a sense of security.

「It's finally the open sea.」

「Yes, but there are also waves, aren't there?」

「Because it's a catamaran, there shouldn't be a problem. Will Marcia spurt ahead from here?」

As the golem boats drive fast towards the east, they leave a white wake and disappear towards the horizon. The speed is approximately 30 kilos per hour. By the way, the knot is not used in this world.

They cut to a different Magic Eye and the top group which was still advancing were seen on the Magic Screen.

「Marcia seems to have risen to 3rd place.」

The magic screen projected Marcia in her swimsuit as she steered the Cygnus. Jin thought the number of men approaching Marcia would surely increase after the competition.

「Father.....」

While Jin was thinking about this, Reiko suddenly raised a tense cry.

「Reiko? What is it?」

「.....I feel some magic.」

Chapter 17 – Reiko, Dispatch

「Magic? Where is it from?」

For a short while, Reiko was focusing on detection.

「Yes, with this feeling, it's close to the turning point.」

The possibility of Marcia being targeted passed through Jin's mind when he heard that, however

「While it's possible, will that guy really interfere with the competition?」*(TL: In case it's not already obvious, I use the male pronouns when referring to an unknown or gender neutral, it's not to be sexist or anything, but if the person being talked about hasn't had their gender directly identified, assume it's unknown)*

「I can't tell from here.」

「Then there's the possibility that he will aim for Marcia, huh.」

Jin was folding his arms and thinking for a while, but while he and Marcia teamed up by chance, he wants Marcia to excel. He'd like to see the ship he made win the championship.

「Ok, I'll go to the sea area.」

He couldn't stomach the guy who was interfering with the competition.

「There should be a competition official in the area. If we find the saboteur, we'll have to push him out.」

Jin said enthusiastically.

「Yes, Father, I'll help you.」

Naturally, Reiko follows that course as well.

「Ok, then we'll go by the ship we borrowed from Marcia.」

The paddle wheeler that was borrowed the day before yesterday is down at the pier. Jin and Reiko left their seats and hurried there.

「Oh? Jin and Reiko, where are you going?」

Reinhardt who was watching from the VIP seats saw the two people leave and walk towards the pier.

「Oh, what a fascinating ship. Is there a waterwheel on both sides? I want to go, but I'm in the VIP seats, is it impossible?」

The seats reserved for distinguished guests are divided by private rooms for every aristocrat, and a guard stands at every entrance and exist, so you can't thoughtlessly leave your seat.

When he glanced at both of his sides, two maids were standing slightly behind him, and Reinhardt let out a sigh of resignation.

When he does this, Reinhardt sees the two people go out of the harbor with the ship.

「E? Eeeeh? It's fast!」

He let's out his voice unintentionally. Because it was natural, and the outer ring which Reiko turned sprayed the water high and left the port in no time.

Because most people were watching the competition, it was only Reinhardt and a few other people who saw it.

「Yosh, that's good, keep it going Reiko.」

Because of the competition, Jin knew hardly any attention was paid to himself for skipping watching it from the start.

And then he confirmed that the audience seats couldn't be seen anymore.

「Reiko, you may put out 20%.」

「Yes, Father.」

Although Reiko could afford to push harder, the materials of the boat couldn't endure any more.

She turns the pedals at such a speed that her delicate arms aren't visible. The water is sprayed several meters high and the ship advances like an arrow.

It's a rate that exceeds 60 kilometers per hour. The speed is more than double that of the ships at the top of the competition.

「F-Fast!..」

Because it is an ordinary boat and not a catamaran, the stability is bad. Still Reiko handled it well and the extent of the danger felt was just a bit of shaking.

「Hey, what is that?」

One of the sailors on the ships of the staff on duty to relay the competition with the Magic Eye stared wide-eyed.

A ship the size of a canoe passed at a speed he thought impossible.

He sees a small man and a girl who wore a light blue dress with an apron.

「Is there something with my eyes?」

When he rubbed his eyes and saw it once again, the ship was gone and the white wake was disappearing into the horizon.

Jin and Reiko arrived at the open sea without going along the reef zone because they weren't part of the competition.

They head towards the magic power that Reiko detected.

「How is it Reiko? Do you know where the opponent is?」

「.....」

Reiko doesn't answer. While rowing, it makes it harder to detect the magic.

When Reiko finally began to talk, she seemed apologetic.

「Father, these are not human beings. The mag was becoming stronger. It's certainly Death Sea Serpents. There are about 40.」

「What!?!」

It is the demon whom Reiko and Reinhardt exterminated.

「They're advancing quickly. As we're also going there, we're rapidly approaching.」

「Are the Death Sea Serpents the demons you kept company last time?」

Jin asked to confirm.

「Yes, Otou-sama」

「Do you think you'll be able to defeat it?」

Reiko nods to that question.

「Yes, no problem.」

「No problem, huh.....」

「If I have to mention a problem, I think that it will be a little time consuming.」

The opponent is 40 of them, and there is only 1 ship. As time goes on, the influence on the competition will only increase.

「We can't afford to turn back here...」

The sea here is approximately 10 kilometers away from the uninhabited island “Io” that's the turning point for the competition. There were no signs of the ships in the vicinity.

Now that the outer rings were worn out, they no longer seem to be able to go as fast as before. Before returning, there's also the possibility of being attacked from the rear.

The bearings on the outer rings were worn down considerably. They had to make temporary repairs.

「I have no choice but to do it.」

Jin muttered to himself.

Jin considered how to deal with the characteristics of the Death Sea Serpents that he had heard of and gives a bitter smile.

He believed his and Reiko's ability to do it, and time passed.

* * *

「The enemy will approach in a few minutes.」

Reiko told him as she sensed the enemy. Jin then includes a little request at the end.

「Reiko, isn't there a possibility that the Death Sea Serpents aren't attacking?」

He asked, but Reiko said

「There is no possibility. The ferocious wave of magical power coming from them is full of destructive impulses, furthermore, Death Sea Serpents are carnivorous.」

When Jin heard that, he resolved himself.

「I see. Reiko, try to kill them at a distance as much as possible.」

「Understood.」

After a few minutes passed, the surface of the sea to the northeast started to get choppy.

「They have come.」

Reiko, who's eyesight was much better than Jin's found it. Jin gave instructions immediately.

「Yosh, let's do it ! 」

Chapter 18 – Interception!

「Flame Lance!」 「Flame Lance!」 「Flame Lance!」

Reiko continuously launches Flame Lances as a preliminary test.

When the first shot landed, a huge Death Sea Serpent broke the surface of the sea and lifted its sickle shaped neck.

「Flame Buster!」

The advanced flame magic paid off as it blew off the head of the death sea serpent.

「One down」

As the first one was defeated, three more appeared through the surface of the sea as though they didn't even notice the first one.

「Flame Buster!」 「Flame Buster!」 「Flame Buster!」

Reiko hits them with three consecutive flame magics, furthermore, two of their heads are blown off while one enters a wave.

「Three more.」

One of them noticed it coming and avoided the Flame Buster by diving into the water, thus the third shot missed.

Jin had seen it.

「It went into the water. See if you can smoke it out.」

The considered tactics are put into effect.

「Sonar!」

It's an engineering magic which checks for internal flaws of a target by sound waves, but when raising the strength, it's possible to have an influence on a creature in the water.

Jin turned a full strength sound wave towards the sea.

It appeared that ten or more of the death sea serpents fled after that one from all over the sea. Fish both big and small fainted and floated to the surface.

「Now, Reiko!」

「Flame Buster!」 「Flame Buster!」 「Flame Buster!」 「Flame Buster!」
「Flame Buster!」

Five of the death sea serpents disappeared into the seaweed in the sea

as the flame magic was given off continuously.

「8 dead」

But some of the death sea serpents were able to flea into the sea.

So Jin,

「I'll smoke them out again, Reiko, try to attack with thunder attribute magic this time.」

「Okay, I understand」

「Good, here we go, Sonar!」

Because of the impact of another sonic wave, the Death Sea Serpents surfaced again.

「Thunder Rain!」

Reiko showered them with a top tier thunder magic.

The death sea serpents who were hit by it writhed in pain and showed their stomach as they fainted and floated to the surface.

「Ok, no holding back. Again!」

Jin casts Sonar at max power while Reiko showers the Death Sea Serpents with Thunder Rain as they float to the surface.

More Death Sea Serpents fainted and floated to the surface.

「That's about half.」

「However, there's a lot of them. Let's fall back for a moment.」

Approaching Jin may be as dangerous as approaching Reiko. Reiko retreats quickly.

There were two of the death sea serpents which noticed that the small boat in front was the source of their danger.

The distance between them is instantly crossed by the power of the Death Sea Serpent.

Reiko had devoted herself to controlling the boat and her interception was a little late.

The jaw of one of the death sea serpents drew near immediately.

「Water Jet!」

Jin approached and aimed at the upcoming Death Sea Serpent and

released a spell. Because it was faster than the speed of sound, the water blade couldn't fail at decapitating the death sea serpent.

「Uwaa!? This is terrible.」

Jin and the others were bathed in the blood which gushed out, but another Death Sea Serpent approached in the meantime.

「Water Jet!」

Jin used Water Jet again. They weren't bathed in blood this time because there was a little distance between them and the death sea serpent.

「Father, what was that just now?」

Reiko asks in surprise.

「Oh, that was engineering magic. Water Jet. It can even cut adamantium.」

「As expected of Father!」

Reiko appears joyful, even at a time like this.

While working in this manner, they were able to get away from the group of Death Sea Serpents. There are about 15 of them left now.

「Will the effect be light from this distance? Water Jet!」

Jin's Water Jet cut the bodies of two of the Death Sea Serpents in half, but the remaining 13 produced a curtain of water and stopped it there.

「Tch, is it strong against the water attribute after all?」

The Water Jet goes through the curtain of water which the death sea serpents created, but the power is considerably weakened and is bounced off of their scales without injuring them.

There were 13 left and they raged as they drew their bodies together while aiming to strike at Jin and the others. As a result, their movements stopped for a moment, then...

「Mana Explosion!」

Reiko's most powerful attack magic exploded. This magic can only be used on a target with magical power, it's necessary to aim at the magic stone Core to suppress the power.

Otherwise neighboring magical powers will also cause explosions, it would be ridiculous.

8 of the Death Sea Serpents were blown apart by the one Mana explosion.

Because of one that had fainted and was floating nearby was involved, 17 of them had been accounted for. This left 5 alive and moving.

「Uotto! It's shaking.」

The small boat was shaken in the aftermath of the explosion.

「Once again... they were a little too close.」

Reiko refrains from firing a second Mana Explosion.

She considered the safety of Jin and was careful. The remaining Death Sea Serpents were approaching.

「Laser!」

Now

An intense red light goes through the head of a Death Sea Serpent. When it hit the curtain of water, it made it evaporate in an instant and went from that hole through the Death Sea Serpents.

In the blink of an eye, the remaining 5 Death Sea Serpents were instantly killed. When Reiko saw this,

「Father, is that also engineering magic?」

「Yeah, I was improvising, but it went well. Originally it is an application of the simple magic “Light”.」

“Light”. It’s a magic used to light up ones hand and look for things in dark places.

「But I amplified the light to an extreme intensity until the wave is coherent.」(*TL: Laser light is monochromatic, coherent, intense and the sides of the beam are almost parallel. (I just copied that from a page I found with a quick google.*
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/higher/physics/radiation/optoelectronic>
))

Jin can do it so simply because it’s magic, but on earth a large device was needed. But Jin lives with the knowledge of both modern Earth and a Magi Craft Meister.

It’s a fusion of science and magic. it is a higher level which his predecessor as a Magi Craft Meister, Adrianna Balbora Ceci, had aimed for.

「As expected of father.」

Reiko said while giving a fatal blow to a Death Sea Serpent which had fainted.

「Hmm, well, it’s not dealing a fatal blow as expected.」

Although Jin had some reluctance towards attacking an unconscious

enemy one-sidedly, Reiko who didn't have such feelings worked indifferently.

「Is it over?」

「Yes, I do not feel anymore magic.」

As the sea became quiet, Jin washed away the victim's blood in the sea. Because the clothes are made of magical materials like Reiko, it'll become clean again soon.

「Well then, let's go back.」

「Yes, Father.」

Slower than when they came, Jin and Reiko began to return.

Chapter 19 – Dead Heat

「Number 35 has appeared! Fast, very fast! They've just caught up with number 3 in 2nd place!」

「Yeah, it seems that number 35 is really showing their ability now.」

The play by play commentary of the rapid advance was a real eye opener. They were now aware of the team of a nameless shipwright and magic craftsman that was known by no one

They are competing for the top position.

「Atto, number 35 finally reached second place! Now they are aiming for the top!」

Number 1 who was in the lead, Riche of Elias's Glory began to fret. The golem specialized for rowing which a master craftsman and Lord Valerio made.

Although they are advancing at almost full power, another team is approaching them and putting pressure on them.

「I have my pride too!」

Riche changed the course of the ship slightly as she muttered.

「Argh! Clever jerk!」

Marcia spat out. Riche moved her ship to block Marcia's course.

「But, the other side seems flustered too.」

Marcia calmed down and changed the course of her ship, but Riche anticipated that as well and Marcia couldn't get passed her.

「Number 1 blocks that course as well! Number 35 is not falling out though!」

「She should have taken a wider route, it's difficult when they're this close. This area is great for a technique expert like Riche.」

Course interference is not a violation unless the hull touches it, and the one in the rear is considered bad when the hull touches it during a pursuit.

While the two ships were competing like that, number 3, Elsa of the Blue Marlin ran past at full speed using a wide path.

「WOW! While number 1 and 35 were entangled, number 3 has taken the top away! Number 38 has began a little late!」

And the leaders approached the fourth stage, the turning point and uninhabited island, "Io".

* * *

On the other hand, Jin and Reiko hurried toward the uninhabited island “Io”.

Since they had come out here anyway, they wanted to see how Marcia was doing.

「Why were the Death Sea Serpents in that kind of a place...?」

The Death Sea Serpent should be a monster that lives in the north sea. That's what Reinhardt said anyways.

「Have you ever escaped from anything like Hekatonkheires?」
(TL:<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hekatonkheires> for anyone who's interested)

「Hmmm, I don't understand. Anyway, the race is the priority right now.」

Since the information was lacking, she couldn't understand, and Jin was too simplistic about it.

(I'd like to make an airplane...)

Just when he was thinking about such things, an unexpected accident happened.

「Aaah!」

One of the axles driven by Reiko broke and sank underwater. It happened in an instant while they were still travelling at full speed.

「Search for it!」

Jin hurriedly said to Reiko.

「No, even if you became serious, it would still be difficult. Even if I'm charged with magic power, since it sank into the deep sea, how long would it take to find it?」

We've already advanced several tens of meters from where it dropped. Even if it isn't impossible for Reiko to find, how long would it take?

Then, Reiko dejectedly said,

「I'm sorry. How thoughtless of me to lose a work of yours, Father.」

And Jin comforts her,

「No, because the material originally had trouble with durability, it's inevitable. Aside from that, it's more important for our safety to remove the paddle wheel.」

「Yes.」

Reiko handed Jin the paddle wheel so it would be safe.

「Oh, this was about to break too... Forming!」

Through Jin's magic, the paddle wheel is turned into a small paddle. He was not able to make anything big because of the lack of materials.

「Reiko, I'm sorry, but would you paddle with this?」

「Understood.」

Reiko began to row at once, but the speed was not entirely gone.

「no good....」

Because of the bronze's bad quality, the hardening magic couldn't do much either. Reiko seems to be over 10% of her output, and the rod seems like it'll break.

「It does not seem like we will be in time.」

When she saw that Jin was disappointed, Reiko

「Father, I will swim and push it.」

She said so, but before Jin could say anything she quickly took off her clothes and plunged into the water. Reiko seems to have felt responsible for having broken and lost the paddle wheel.

And Reiko grabbed the boat from the water and began kicking the water with her delicate bare feet.

「Oh, ooh! This is fast!」

When she was first transferred to the sea from the Warp Gate to look for Jin, Reiko was able to go 100Kph while carrying baggage and clothed.

Now that she has further been strengthened from that time, she could easily support the ship with Jin in the back at 100 Kph.

If you looked from the end, you might not notice it, but the ship is travelling at high speed.

「That seems to be Io Island.」

The silhouette of the island that was the turning point reflected in Jin's eyes. There also appear to be some ships which had tourists on them.

「Reiko, I was wondering, but are we going to slow down soon?!」

Jin was worried about whether Reiko, who was underwater, could hear his yell. But, because Reiko's hearing is not regular, let alone the voice of her "father", Jin, she immediately dropped her speed.

Slowly, the ship that Jin was riding on proceeds between the tourist boats that were watching the competition. Although Jin was holding the paddle, for such a small boat to enter the sea was already suspicious.

Fortunately, the audience in the tourist boat were too busy watching the fierce competition of the lead group and no one was paying attention to Jin.

* * *

「The three lead ships are about to approach the turning point!」

「The key to the fourth stage are the turns and how to shorten your time. The size of Io Island is about 1 Kilometer, it is an almost circular island.」

The commentary continued.

「Because of the conical shape of the island, much like a volcano, the shore is shallow and the water gets deeper as you get farther away.」

「So, that is to say...」

「That's right, if you try to take a tight turn you risk running aground, but if you play it safe and take it big you're going to take more time.」

「So that's the key of this area, isn't it?」

「Yes, but the three lead ships seem to be trying to turn to the very

limit.」

Just as the announcer said, the three lead ships seem to have decided to go at a distance as close to the limit as several meters from the uninhabited island, Io.

* * *

「We somehow made it in time.」

They could finally see the figures of the leaders from their location.

「It's athletes numbered 3, 1, and 35. Aren't they in a good position? After turning around the island, it's a speed game!」

Jin tried to recall the stage configuration of the competition, And, there...

「Father, may I say something?」

Reiko came out of the water.

「Reiko, what is it? 」

「Yes, I saw two strange golems underwater.」

「Golems in the water?」

What a strange place to be.

「So, what are they doing? Those fellows.」

「For now, nothing, they're keeping still.」

「.....」

I couldn't understand their intention. Considering it was installed near the competition, it's suspicious. I don't understand why they would purposely put it in the water. (TL: This appears to be him thinking, but he's usually much smarter than this, it should be obvious that someone is cheating.)

「Have you identified their affiliation?」

「Please wait... Well, it is probably produced by a Magic Craftsman named Valerio. I smell the same magic power as the golem with athlete 1.」

「What!?Hmmm」

When it's associated with the nobleman, Valentino, I feel we've caught onto something. It may be an interference this time.

「Yosh, Reiko, i'd like you to watch the two golems and prevent them from interfering with the competition.」

「Understood. Do you want me to destroy them?」

「That's no good. If it's an arm or a leg, I don't mind if they're destroyed so they can't move, but you can't damage the Control Stone of the golems, we need them to submit as evidence.」

「OK」

Reiko disappeared into the water.

Soon, the lead group approached Io Island.

Chapter 20 – And of the hearts desire

(These two bodies are specialized in underwater action, aren't they?)

Reiko was observing and while analyzing for any signs of hostility approaching.

(Small stature, thin figure, and hands and feet with are webbed.)

Both bodies had the same form.

(The prominence of the forearm seems to have high offensive power, doesn't it?)

Reiko approached to about 5 meters and hid herself in that place.

The vicinity is a shallow place that is no more than 2 meters deep, but it's rocky enough to not lack hiding places.

(The sign of Arrow is approaching, isn't it?)

When it was seen from beneath the water, the order of approach was the shallow bottom boat of Reinhardt and Elsa, the mono hull of the noble man, Valentino, and the catamaran of Marcia.

At that moment, the underwater golems began to move.

One of them went towards Elsa's boat, while the other advanced on Cygnus.

(I don't know what you're going to do, but I won't let you go.)

Since the opponent was a golem, Reiko had absolutely no hesitation. She bent her body like a spring and kicked off the rocks to move through the water in a moment.

She first grabbed the legs of the closer golem and crushed them at once.

(The interior is hollow? It is incomparable to the golems made by father.)

After crushing its other leg so that its movements were dull, Reiko leaves it in place and goes after the other golem.

(Are you going to tear the boat hull with that protuberance?)

The golem was aimed at the catamaran, but Reiko's arm quickly caught the golem in an instant.

(The protuberance is steel, it's soft, isn't it?)

Reiko finished twisting the arm and water entered through the hollow arm, dulling its movements at once.

(That's it.)

Because of their dulled movements, the golems were not an enemy for Reiko. Reiko wrenched off the remaining arm and both legs the same way as she did the other one.

Because the Control Core at the heart was fine, they should be able to identify the criminal.

(Well, let's report to father.)

After leaving the golems which couldn't move anymore, Reiko returns to the boat that Jin is on.

To her rear, the lead group passed through without incident. (TL: I'm wondering if it's really Valentine who set those there and he's just that stupid, or if it's a setup to frame him.)

「Father, it's finished.」

Quietly entering from the side, Reiko reported it.

「Is that so? Thank you. By the way, did you take the evidence from the golems?」

「If that's all, I can go back and grab them.」

Reiko calmly answered.

「Is that so? Then please do.」

「Yes.」

Reiko seems to be happy that Jin depended on her and is acting with a smile.

First, she took the hands and feet she had wrenched off and twisted and stretched them into an unshapely rope. It was a forcible labor and not even engineering magic was used.

She tied the 2 golems together using this rope made of their limbs. As ridiculous of a feat as it is, Reiko is unaware of this since she's only using 20% of her output.

Well, both father and daughter are birds of a feather. (TL: This sentence was confusing, but they're saying that both Jin and Reiko are absurd and unaware of how absurd they and their actions tend to be)

With the golems tied to the aft of the boat, Reiko began to push it back.

「What? That boat.」

「It's moving without rowing?」

Some on the sightseeing sheep seemed to notice this time, but Jin was not pursued in this matter since no one saw his face.

* * *

「The top group that went around the uninhabited island Io, the turning point is in the order of 3, 1, 35, and 28!」

The play-by-play had continued to announce with their usual tension.

「The last stage from here is the high-speed sections with no obstacles, right?」

One announcer says.

Athlete 35 and Marcia were behind and to the left of 1 moving towards the open sea. It's because it doesn't let Riche interfere with their course.

And they made a spurt at the stretch.

「Oooh! Athlete 35 is fast! The water spray is really flying back!」

Slanting to advance had caused Cygnus to lose some speed, but that was nothing.

「It has surpassed! It has surpassed! team MJR has finally outran number 35 and 1!」

Marcia has gone out in front of Riche for the first time. This time, it was Riche who was impatient.

「Why!? Why didn't it fall out?! That ship performs so well!」

Riche couldn't believe it when the catamaran which Marcia rides on passed her and sprayed her with water.

Though she made the golem that Lord Valerio made work to the limit, the difference didn't shrink. It seemed like it was a nightmare.

Marcia accelerates more and and closes the distance between her and Elsa who's in the lead.

「Fast... it is as big brother Rai anticipated.」

Elsa felt the difference in the absolute performance of the ship and decided to stop that with course interference.

「Fair and square game.」

Even though it's not suitable for the climax of the finals, course interference is not foul.

Lorelei was encouraged to accelerate even more than the limit. Using her flexible body, Lorelei began to kick the water in the rear.

On the other hand, Cygnus moved the hull forward with the waterwheel driven by the pedal that Arrow rowed to the limit and pushed a white spray up high.

「Well, the waterwheel is just inefficient.」

Jin sighed while seeing it from a long distance.

Although flashy, the waterwheel is spraying too much water into the air, that meant it was doing extra work, but there were no records about it before this. (TL: I think he's trying to say that not many would notice the flaw since it hadn't been written before, and is pointing out that the large amount of water being thrown is a sign of wasted energy.)

「After all, a propeller would be better, huh.」

Jin hasn't figured out how to build a suitable drive mechanism for a propeller yet, even with his power.

「When I return to the research center, I'd like to focus on this part as expected.」

While continuing his train of thought, Jin was jolted in the boat.

「Work hard, Lorelei.」

Elsa controlled Lorelei desperately, but number 35 gradually narrowed

the distance.

Before long,

「OVERWORK, DEATH, master Elsa」

Lorelei said that it had exceeded its limit. At this pace, it won't be able to reach the goal.

Reluctantly, Elsa drops the output of Lorelei, and Cygnus finally takes the lead.

「What unbelievable speed! Number 35 has outrun the Blue Marine and taken the lead for the first time!」

「When the competition is over, team MJR will be in great demand, won't they?」

If the nameless MJR won the championship, there would be several rich people and nobles who would call out to them.

「That's right. According to our documents, it's said that Marcia, the ship operator, is also a Shipwright. And Jin who made the golem is a nameless Magic Craftsman, but after this his name should spread quickly, won't it?」

For the first time in the finals, Cygnus is running in the lead.

Although he couldn't see it anymore, he could listen to the play by play and that made Jin smile.

「Now Reiko, we'll return quickly, too.」

Because they had to advance along a different course from Marcia, it can't be denied that it's a roundabout route, but they had to take it to avoid being seen.

The small boat with Jin took the great detour around and aimed at the port town, Port Rock.

* * *

At the goal point in Port Rocks central port, one person who was watching the Magic Screen was grinding their teeth in frustration.

Needless to say, it was the noble man, Valentino.

「Grrrr, surprisingly that girl Riche is cowardly! Sir Valerio is Sir Valerio, too, but I poured in so much money, what is it, that condition?」

After seeming mortified and murmuring so, he changed completely and a dark smile floated on his face.

「Since it's come to this, there's no choice...」

He muttered so.

「Valentino, they will soon be at the goal. Shall we go meet the contestants at the finish line?」

The person in the VIP seats said. There are not many who can call Valentino by name without a title like this person did.

It was Valentino's boss that had spoken, a female lord Elias Kingdoms south Zaus state, Marquis Dominique de do Firentsiano.

Valentino clicked his tongue inwardly, but went down according to the feudal lords instructions from the VIP seats without showing his thoughts on his face.

Chapter 21 – Awards Ceremony, and...

Unbeknownst to everyone present, a small boat had arrived just outside of Port Rock. Everyone had gone to the finish line to watch the winner of the race.

「OK, it's all right now Reiko.」

A naked Reiko boarded the ship and put on her clothes swiftly without worry.

「Father, we should take these golems to the Event Officials as soon as possible.」

「Ah, yes, please.」

「Yes.」

Reiko hauled the golems and began to carry them since they couldn't move. Jin helped out and did the same as well.

「Hm? What? What is it?」

「What's that? Huh?」

Most of the residents were paying attention to the competition, but we still stood out.

Because Jin intended to leave this town soon, he began to act serious.

At the finish line, a thunderous cheer could be heard.

「Athlete number 35, now, GOOOOOOOOAL!」

Jin was reminded by the especially loud announcement that Marcia had taken first place.

「Well done, Marcia.」

Thought Jin as he made his way through the shifting mass of people who were pushing and shoving to catch a glimpse of this year's queen, Marcia, who donned a tearful face.

A slightly joyful Reiko commented –

「Congratulations, father. Well, it's natural since it's father.」

「Ah, if it isn't Jin. Congratulations on your victory. By the way, what is Miss Reiko carrying?」

Jin ran into Reinhardt while he came down from the VIP seats to thank Elsa for her service. Fortunately for Jin, Reinhardt noticed the two figures carrying golems.

「Oh, Reinhardt. About these two golems, they appear to be sent by a third party who wished to interfere with today's event.」

「What? Is the Control Core safe?」

「Of course. Even though I can confirm the details myself, I'd like an Event Official to be present.」

「I'll never forgive anyone that defiles the competition that should be fair. Hey, official!」

Although Jin was an uninvited guest, because of Reinhardt's influence and position as an aristocrat in another country, the Vice Chairman of the event came over immediately. The chairperson seemed to be occupied by managing the awards ceremony.

「There is someone who attempted to cheat with these golems.」

「What!?!?」

「When we investigate the control core, all the supporting evidence will appear. Watch, <READ>!」

Reinhardt works his magic on the control core. Instead of the higher ranking <Decompilation>, it is the easier to understand <Read>.

「This is... !」

Light begins to flow and forms letters in a line. When read,

「This part “interfere with all ships except for athlete number 1’s” can be read.」

「This says “Destroy athlete number 35 and ****”. **** is not readable, but they want it destroyed. What is this thing?!」

The golem was damaged when Reiko disabled it, so not everything was preserved perfectly. This being so, enough information was kept intact in an understandable condition.

「In other words, this golem was sent out for... !」

The complexion of the vice-chairman changed, but Reinhardt remained calm.

「No, we shouldn’t come to conclusions too early, as it could possibly be an excessive supporters efforts.」

「Anyway, we’ll have to bring this up in the Official Event Governing committee!」

As he finished the evaluation, an order was given to a subordinate that had them carry the golems to a secure location for safekeeping.

「Oh? In such a place.」

When Jin relaxed his shoulders and murmured, Reinhardt was in high spirits.

「I saw Jin and Miss Reiko row out and leave from before. Adding up the events that happened afterwards, sending an invitation for you to visit my country seems more and more appealing! When I go back home, do you wish to accompany me?」

As Jin thought about the proposal, Reinhardt told him about his plans for travel.

「I'd like to travel with you immediately after this competition, but unfortunately I have other things that I need to attend to. I intend to go visit the other regions, and in doing so, passing through Elias kingdom will probably take around another 10 days.」

Because he thought Jin would provide him with inspiration and ingenuity, he gave a grace period of 10 days for convenience.

「If that's the case, I'd be happy to go together.」

「Oh, I see! My Randall family will definitely welcome you to our country. Then how about I send someone to meet you here in 10 days?」

When Jin said he'd like to go, Reinhardt was pleasantly surprised.

「In that case, that'll help. Oh, how much baggage can I bring?」

「If it's 1 carriage, it doesn't matter.」

There didn't seem to be a problem, so Jin thanked him.

The Central Harbor was decided on as the meeting place and Jin received a handkerchief with the crest of the Randall house on it.

This will allow the person who's going to escort Jin to identify him.

As the conversation finished and everything was agreed upon, remarkably loud cheers came from the direction of the competition venue.

「Oh, is the awards ceremony going to start soon?」

So Jin and Reinhardt traveled to the venue together.

On the podium are three extremely beautiful women.

Marcia, who wore a blue swimsuit was on the highest platform marked #1. Because of her narrow figure, it emphasized her other features, attracting the gazes of almost all of the male visitors.

Elsa was wearing a yellow swimsuit and was in second place. Because of her modest figure in spite of being 16 years old, and her being a viscount's daughter, people were cheering for her less openly. *(TL: I think they're trying to say that people didn't want to look like pedophiles, so they weren't paying as much attention to her and using*

her status as an excuse for not doing so.)

Standing in third place was Riche with her red swimsuit. Although she was petite, she had a glamorous figure which divided the popularity and attention between her and Marcia in two.

* * *

The awards ceremony was over and Jin and Reiko were talking to Marcia in the waiting room. She had already taken off her swimsuit and was wearing her usual casual clothes.

「Jin, thank you, it's thanks to you that I could win the championship. Thanks to you, I should be able to succeed as a shipwright.」

While saying so, she placed the bag with the 1 million torr prize money on the table.

「I was able to get the 100,000 torr prize for the design of the ship.」
(TL: I think that the last one was supposed to be 100,000 as well, but there was an extra o, it was 100万 vs 10万 which showed in this line, so I think it's a typo, but I'll leave it at that)

Since the catamaran Cygnus was evaluated highly, Marcia appeared to show some more sincerity.

「Because of that, I got an award for uniqueness. This is your share, Jin.」

She put the bag of 100,000 torr in front of Jin. The waterwheel drive was also evaluated highly.

「Because of that, the division of the championship prize money will be equally divided according to our contract.」

「Um, I...」

「Ah, I understand. Because Jin contributed the most to our victory, I want to give you 3/4ths of the prize money.」

「No, that's not it, I...」

Jin started to say that it was a joke, but decided to stay quiet about it, because his modesty could appear as excessive and devalue the victory due to being too reserved.

「Well then, half, if you please.」

Saying so, he opened the bag with gold coins and counted out 50 and left it to Reiko. Reiko then put it in a pocket of her apron.

「That was refreshing. What will you do now, Jin?」

Marcia asked with relief on her face.

「I was originally planning to go sightseeing in this country and see the different towns. Reinhardt invited me to visit also...」

「Is that so? Though I am disappointed, the contract is over and Jin is not from this country. Although it was short, it was definitely fun.」

Saying so, Marcia held out her right hand and Jin grasped it in return.

「I was also happy that I could team up with Marcia.」

After saying so and smiling, Jin and Marcia left the waiting room.

They were then promptly mobbed by people who wished to hire the two of them.

* * *

「Excuse me, is it true?」

「Yes, Reinhardt, a VIP checked it in front of me.」

「Go investigate this immediately.」

The female feudal lord, Dominique de Firentsiano, was angry at the news that there was a third party who plotted sabotage with the golems and commanded that the issue be investigated immediately.

On that day, an aide to the feudal lord was found to have bought a large quantity of Magic Stones and that a magic formation of movement interference was discovered on the desk of an event official.

Furthermore, a merchant who used some materials and money made poor quality bronze statues of a specific visitor (they didn't say it was Marcia) and was reported. *(TL: The part in the (they didn't say it was Marcia) was actually in the raw)*

Another thing that was discovered was that one person who was arrested was a member of the garrison. He was the one who had snuck into the docks where the ships in the finals were kept and failed to steal a ship. As a result of interrogation, they found out that he was after ship number 35.

Further inquiry also found that Velntino had been persistently trying to make Marcia, the champion, into his mistress.

The final nail in the coffin was that they were able to identify the Magic Craftsman who programmed the golems that Reiko had captured. Naturally, the person who hired him became clear shortly after.

Although most of the evidence was circumstantial, the contents found within the programming of the Golems were definitive.

Valentino was cornered by the evidence. Lord Valerio who made the golem was also under suspicions, and a written protest was going to be sent to the Celuria Kingdom.

Although he was cornered, Valentino still held a fearless laugh.

Later through the day, the Event Officials had an announcement to make.

「This is a very regrettable, but a third party was found guilty of attempting to sabotage an otherwise fair event.

The party performed in favoritism of Number 1 Elias's Glory.

The position of third place is revoked from Elias's Glory's team and given to team 28, team Seabird is now raised to 3rd place.

Therefore, as a result of this, we eagerly await for the response of all those related.」

Chapter 22 – When a mystery is solved

「Now then, in honor of everyone's efforts, Cheers!」

Jin, Reiko, Marcia, Reinhardt and Elsa (4 people and 1 automaton) were celebrating their victory from the other day at a luxurious restaurant.

Although Jin and Marcia were invited by various aristocrats and merchants after the competition, the invitation they received from Reinhardt gave them a reason to decline them all, and were able to shrink away from the attention of the masses.

「No, I lost to Jin! There's no way Lorelei could have won!!!」

「Really? I couldn't believe that you were overworking Lorelei during the last stage.」

Both Reinhardt and Elsa obediently admitted defeat.

「Please tell me one thing, Jin.」

For now, they seem to want to hear various things about Jin's origins.

The first thing that was asked in this conversation –

「Is it true that you came over to this continent with a <Warp Gate>?」

Whether or not he expected it to be brought into the conversation, Jin thought about it deeply.

「Yeah, but, I don't want to disclose too much information about it. If by chance it were to be broken, my means of returning home would disappear.」

Jin declined in a polite manner. Nodding in understanding, Reinhardt replied with another question.

「Is that so? I wanted to check it out, but it's impossible isn't it?」

「Big brother Rei, everyone has one or two things they can't tell others about.」

When Elsa said so, Reinhardt also thought it was unsuitable to continue so he backed down.

「Sorry, but, some day I'll be able to invite you guys to my home.」

When Jin said so in a semi-diplomatic manner, Reinhardt took the bait.

「Really? Is that so? It would be my pleasure! Ah, I have to go to another nation's capital as a diplomat tomorrow, it's regrettable, but I'll definitely have to take you up on your offer eventually!」

「Y-yeah.」

Although Jin regretted mentioning the invitation, only the future knows what it will bring.

As the meal progressed, they began to talk about the competition.

The topic came to talk about the golems that Jin and Reiko had caught.

「In the end, there was no evidence of fraud by the operator of the ship, Riche, so she hasn't been arrested. Valentino is being held in custody while the investigation continues.」

「Hmmm, that's understandable, right?」

Because Valentino had several ways to handle this, Marcia made a complex expression.

「Marcia's had various troubles, right?」

Jin understood Marcia's feelings.

Sensing the atmosphere between Marcia and Jin, Reinhardt could tell that they would have a hard time talking about it.

It's normally a topic that people don't want to talk about, but after winning the championship and being in high spirits, drinking wine and becoming slightly intoxicated, Marcia began to talk about her problems before her participation.

「What? Can you explain in more detail please, oh, and also in chronological sequence.」

Reinhardt asked with an unusually serious look.

Marcia began with how she couldn't find a Magic Craftsman and how all of the Magic Stones had been sold out. Furthermore, the price of bronze had doubled, and even poor quality bronze was being sold at an exorbitant price.

「Umm, after that, it was the arson incident.」

She recalled the fire that Reinhardt had put out that was going directly for their ship.

Since he thought there wouldn't be another chance, Jin decided to speak as well.

「Umm, actually, the night before the last preliminary....」

He talked about how Reiko had repelled some intruders and dumped them far away.

「Is that... so. Hmmmm...」

Reinhardt put his finger on his forehead and began to brood.

「Even if it doesn't seem like it, big brother Rai is smart.」

Elsa's praise is done in a subtle manner.

「He isn't just a diplomat for show.」

After sitting like that for a while, Reinhardt appears to have had an idea and looks up.

「At first, it appears that they intended to prevent Marcia from participating.」

Jin agreed with this,

「Yes, but I don't understand why. Why was it limited to Marcia? Would it ignore other participants?」

Reinhardt shows a broad grin.

「It's at that point that I thought "Perhaps it's not Marcia who's being aimed at, but the ship?"」

「Eh?」

In other words, Reinhardt's explanation was that they wanted to destroy the catamaran.

「Destroy it? Who?」

「Of course, Valentino.」

Judging from Marcia's story, if she couldn't participate in the competition, she would be forced to let go of the Catamaran. When it came to that, Marcia who had little gold would sell it to Valentino, or so Reinhardt deduces.

「I see. I had little money, and there's the maintenance fees until next year, I would have had to sell it for some money and the other party would've likely been connected to Valentino.」

Marcia supported Reinhardt's reasoning.

And his deductions continued.

「Now that Marcia was qualified to participate in the competition, they couldn't purchase the ship. So they attempted arson.」

Reinhardt's explanation showed that the ship would cause them trouble, and not that they wanted the ship. He then took a sip of wine to quench his thirst and continued.

「The arson failed, and Jin made an autonomous golem to pilot the boat. If handled poorly, the criminal could be identified.」

Everyone listened to Reinhardt's theory without interrupting.

「Therefore, they had to resort to a more desperate plan. They attempted to kidnap or harm Marcia to remove her from the competition, but that also failed.」

As Reinhardt illustrated all of this, he looked like a completely different person.

「The last resort were the golems in the water, but that scheme also came to nothing thanks to Miss Reiko. Other ships were disturbed as well, and and if things went well, they would get the championship.」

Reinhardt takes a breath.

「If I can check the catamaran, I'm certain that I'll understand something.」

He concluded.

The ships that placed from first to third were under the management of the competition committee at this time. Although it can't be reached immediately, because of the previous methods employed, they couldn't rest easy.

Besides, Valentino is a lord's assistant. But he should be under investigation right now, so now was the prime time for their undercover investigation.

「It should be investigated early if possible.」

As Reinhardt finished, they quickly finished their food and left the restaurant. The outside was already completely dark.

As they walked down the street towards the harbour, with the light of a magic lamp guiding their way. The sea breeze at night was chilly and pleasant on their slightly tipsy faces.

Reinhardt asked Marcia a question while walking.

「When was the catamaran made?」

Marcia thought a little,

「About 2 years ago, I think. Then I readjusted it restlessly. Oh, a large adjustment was made last year.」

「Wasn't it last year... that Valentino said he wanted Marcia as a concubine?」

「Last year... Yeah!」

As expected, it seemed to have some relevance to the situation at hand.

Before long, the party arrived at the public dock. One guard was

standing on duty.

「Thanks for the hard work. I'd like to check on a ship a little, would that be all right?」

He was from the team that came in 2nd, the owner of Blue Marine, Reinhardt, a guest of honour who stated his intention.

After he nodded once, the guard unlocked the docks back entrance.

He expressed his thanks as he entered inside. It was pitch black, but because Jin, Reiko, Reinhardt, and Elsa used <Light> magic, it quickly became bright enough.

「Now, Marcia, may I check your ship?」

Marcia began to investigate the construction of the ship right away.

First, the whole hull was inspected. Nothing in particular is found, though, because Jin bleached it with <Safe Treatment>.

Next, the right half of the hull. The inside was hollow except for where there was structural material.

「What? What's this?」

An unfamiliar parchment was forced into a gap of the structural

material of the right hull near the rear corner.

「It's impossible that I didn't notice this gap until now, stay here.」

A letter and a picture were written on what Marcia pulled out of the hull. Marcia began to read it out loud.

「Now, let's see, It appears to be a contract for 4 エルラドライト (Eruradoraito*).(TL: *I have no idea what エルラドライト is supposed to be... The closest I can think of is erudite which is a form of ruby, but it doesn't quite fit.*)

When they heard this, Reinhardt and Elsa's eyes went wide.

「This is.....」

「Eh? Erudoraito* ? 」

Two people raised their voice in surprise, but Jin,

「What is that?」

It was a jewel that Jin didn't know about.

「Yeah, that's.....」

Reinhardt began to explain to him. The thing was a very rare jewel that

was discovered about 100 years ago.

Because it had a property that amplified the effects of magic, many countries restricted the circulation of it.

It's also monopolized by the nation of the Elias Kingdom.

It would cost about 10 million Torr for a worthless one, so about 40 million torr for 4, or about 400 million yen.

If an individual was trading such a thing, then they were smuggling.

「EH? I didn't know that!」

Marcia cried. Since it seemed to have concerned the dealings of such a valuable jewel, it was unbearable.

「I understand, it's not a jewel that a mere commoner should have in their possession.」

Reinhardt was referring to an under the table contract that people didn't want others to see.

Then the front door was forced open loudly.

Chapter 23 – Conclusion

「Golems ! ?」

「That's definitely one of Valentino's golems!」

The golem that broke open the door had been owned by Valentino in the competition and was made by Lord Valerio.

「That guy, did he get reckless because he's cornered?」

Then another figure appeared, it was another identical golem of the same type.

「Two golems! Did he make enough profit from smuggling to spend money like that?」

The two golems approached with firm steps while soaking in water up to their chest.

「I guess they came eyeing the evidence of the El Dorado Transactions.」

They are advancing straight towards 3 ships, Marcia's catamaran being among them.

Reinhardt called out to Lorelei;

「Yes creator.」

The Mermaid type golem, Lorelei, appeared from the water.

「Wait, Reinhardt, do you really intend to stop both of them with just Lorelei?」

Lorelei's leather material puts it at a disadvantage against a metallic enemy. While Jin worried he was told,

「Oh, even though it looks like this, Lorelei's combat power is high, although it's limited to the water.」

Saying so, he issued instructions to Lorelei.

Lorelei disappeared into the water, and the next moment, the two golems lost their balance as though they had lost their footing and fell down.

「Good! Well, we'd better get out of here before it's too late.」

Reinhardt tries to make Elsa and Marcia evacuate the dock first, but

「I refuse! If left alone as is, won't those golems destroy my ship?」

「Yes, of course. Apparently, those two golems seem to be a semi-

autonomous type, and will keep working towards their goal until they are destroyed or complete it.」

When Jin said so, Marcia asked about what a semi-autonomous type was.

Reinhardt answered her question.

The reason semi-autonomous types are made the most is because they have some autonomy to react to a situation.

For example, you don't have to give it detailed instructions when you say「Bring me ***** 」。

Conversely, an advanced autonomous golem would require a significantly higher skill to create than the average Magic Craftsman, which are already limited.

「Well, here it is too narrow....」

On the other hand, Jin was troubled. Reiko was in another room fighting at 10-20% against identical golems, but because of how small the docks were, her fighting ability was hindered further due to the probability of causing collateral damage to the surroundings.

When Reiko strikes with sufficient power to destroy a golem, the force is likely to be transferred behind it too, powerful enough to break a wall.

After looking around the dock, Jin found out whether or not there were any good methods of attack.

「Reiko! Knock that fishing weight into them!」

The weight, or ballast, weighed around 20kg. It's used instead of an anchor to fix a ship in place temporarily.

「Yes, Father.」

Reiko lifted the lump of iron lightly with 20% of her output and threw it at the golem.

「Aaah!」

Whose voice was that?

The weight that Reiko threw crushed the upper body of the golem and protruded outside of the dock.

「It's good that the door was open....」

Jin was relieved that the golem was forced out without breaking the door. Furthermore, Reiko hurled another weight at another golem.

The second golem raised its hand in order to catch the weight, but Reiko had thrown it with 20% of her total output.

The lump of iron that was flying at a super-high speed crushed the arm that was held out and the upper body as was and kept flying out to sea without losing any speed.

「.....」

「.....」

Everyone who was watching were stunned like deers in headlights.

The first to return to their senses was Reinhardt.

「Lorelei, find the Control Core of the golem!」

「Yes.」

When analyzing the control cores, the criminal can be identified. Lorelei immediately retrieved the 2 Control Cores from the water.

On the other hand, Reinhardt began explaining the situation to the guards who had finally gathered. Elsa supports him from the side as well.

Jin who saw all of this thought it would make a good reference as expected.

「I see, the two golems forced open the door to the dock and attacked.」

「The guard is also hurt, but he's also saying that without a doubt.」

「Anyways, please come to the lord's place.」

「We'll secure the crime scene」(*TL: It really says "we'll guard here", but I feel this fits better*)

They had caused a large uproar. Jin and the others were going to the female lord who rules the southern part of the Elias Kingdom including Port Lock, Dominique de Firentsiano, as important witnesses.

* * *

Meanwhile, at the government building where Dominique de Firentsiano is...

Three subordinates of Marquis hudson and Valentino do Hudson were confined to a room on the 2nd floor for an investigation. For an aide to a feudal lord, it wasn't a jail cell but a room in the government office building.

A detailed interrogation was scheduled to take place tomorrow.

As two guards were placed at the only entrance to the room...

The sound of broken glass resounded from behind the closed doors.

「What the!?!」

The guards were surprised by the sound and opened the door to see in the room and were astonished.

「G-Golem!?!」

Two golems were there. If Jin saw this, he'd notice that they're the same golems that attacked the tax carriers from Kaina village.

「Fufufu, as long as these guys are around I can't be caught. I have no use for this country anymore.」

As he said so, Valentino was already disappearing through the escape hole, the golems rushing after him.

「W-wait!」

One of the guards runs out in pursuit while the other ran in order to report it to the lord.

「What was that?! Valentino has fled!?!」

The lord who heard the report couldn't believe their ears. It appeared that a noble's son with a clear parentage ran away for fear of conviction.

「Hurry up and arrange a search!」

The subordinate followed the instructions, but there were few guards in this town. One by one they gathered increasing from the original 10 to 20 people.

Even with the resting half, their numbers were not enough to handle two golems.

And then....

「Lord Firentsiano, the visitors from the Shioro Empire, Reinhardt and Elsa, and the championship team “MJR” are here to see you. They are with the harbor guard as well.」

If it was only Jin and the others, they would have been put off, but when the female lord heard they were with an aristocrat, she ordered to let them through while thinking it was annoying.

Her appearance began to change as she listened to their story.

When Reinhardt cast [Read] on the Control Cores of the golem to display the instructions contents,

「Destroy the ship of team 35 and recover the evidence of the El Dorado transactions that were hidden it it. The person who gave these orders is... Valentino!」

「The evidence has already been collected, This is it.」

Reinhardt put the evidence on the table. The complexion of Firentsiano turned pale and confirmed that the crest was one that Valentino used.

「When the story is put together, Valentino seems to have been involved in smuggling.」

A year ago, the El Dorado was meant to be gifted to the Royal Family, but it went missing and was presumably stolen. The same El Dorado was then found hidden within Marcia's ship, which was also accompanied by the smuggling contract.

「A carved seal of an 'E' is engraved on the evidence.」

The stone's appearance was written within the contract, and it depicted that all of the stones shared the same 'E' marking.

「But, it was often hidden in such a place, wasn't it?」

The female lord regarded a strange thing, Marcia thought for a little.

「Oh, it must be that then. A magic craftsman wasn't found to participate last year, but this year they could so the ship was being remodelled.」

At that time, anyone could approach it since it was stored at a beach and not a dock.

It was a ship with an unusual shape, so it worked well as a marker.

「...There was a report that they pursued a suspicious person. When they caught up with him and inspected his personal belongings they found nothing.」

The Marquis said so while looking at the past records.

At that time, Marcia saw Valentino and was gloomily told to “Be his mistress”. Because it was bothersome, she went to the neighbouring town where her father’s shop was with the catamaran.

Valentino who intended to collect it immediately seemed to have gotten impatient.

「He only found it again when Marcia decided to participate in the competition with the ship that hid the evidence of his smuggling.」

All of the reasons became clear with this.

「When we interrogate Valentino, we’ll also find out the third party responsible that stole and are trading the El Dorado.」

Reinhardt said with a relieved face, but the female lord frowned.

「In fact... some time ago Valentino escaped from custody with the aid of golems.」

「What?!」

「I have to report to the imperial capital and place Valentino on a wanted list. Reinhardt, could you go with me?」

「Yes, of course.」

Jin and Marcia left at that point. From then on, there was no place for civilians.

* * *

The next morning, Jin and Marcia bid farewell at the port.

「If you come to town, make sure to visit me, because I will build up [Marcia's Shipyard] magnificently!」

「Yeah, I'm looking forward to it. Make a lot of good ships!」

Jin and Marcia shook hands and parted in this way.

* * *

Afterwords:

Other than Valentino, another person was arrested for the smuggling.

One of the guardsmen was hired to set fire to the dock. They were off duty, but they approached the dock area with free entry by site.

It also came to light that the guard captain committed multiple misdeeds and was also receiving a bribe from Valentino. He was dismissed and jailed.

The men who were stunned by Reiko when they tried to attack Marcia were caught for another incident in the neighbouring town, but they confessed readily when they considered their other crimes and were interrogated.

Later on, a large number of Death Sea Serpent corpses were found off of Io Island, but there were no witnesses who could be questioned about it.